Text: Topic:

# Sermon Notes



"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." <u>I John 1:5</u>

## Volume 11

#### November 19, 2023

Issue 3

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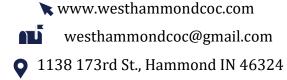
#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Children's Sunday School ....10 a.m. Young Christians' Class ......10 a.m. Sun. Adult Bible Class .......10 a.m. Worship Service .......11 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1



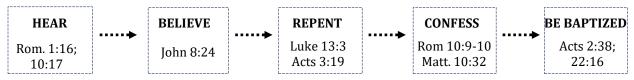
### WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we will be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible Correspondence Course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone will be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible study. You can indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray located at the front on the communion table.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

ORDER OF SERVICE Song ~Announcements~ Song ~ Opening Prayer~ Song~ Scripture Reading~ Song~ Sermon~ Song~ Lord's Supper~ Offering~ Song~ Closing Prayer

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



# **CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

## **Restoring The Fallen** By Ron Boatwright

There are a number of members of the Lord's church that through spiritual weakness have fallen away and become unfaithful. But in eternity they will be "Having damnation because they have cast off their first faith" (1 Timothy 5:12). And because of this "Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men" (2 Corinthians 5:11). We should not ever want to see anyone lost in Hell. But Jesus says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Here we see that only few will go to Heaven, but the vast majority of people will be eternally lost in Hell. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1). Those who depart from the faith were once faithful Christians who had given up.

What should we do when we see one of our brothers or sisters depart from the faith? "Brethern, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). The Lord is depending on us, those of "you who are spiritual", to help restore one back to the Lord.

What causes one to become unfaithful? "Beware, brethern, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today", lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13). It is when our faith becomes weak to the point of unbelief that we fall away. If we fall away, wouldn't we want another brother or sister in Christ to help encourage us to become faithful again so we would not be lost in eternal torment? When one falls away, he usually begins to forsake the worship assembly. God's word commands us who are faithful, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:24-27). We are to encourage and exhort one another to be faithful. Unless that brother or sister, who is forsaking the assembly, repents there no longer remains any sacrifice for forgiveness of his sins. If one dies in that condition, he/ she will be eternally lost.

Let's look around and see who is missing from our number, who have become unfaithful and visit with them to encourage them to be faithful so they can go to Heaven and not Hell. The Lord will be very pleased if we do this.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **REMINDERS:**

~Please silence your *cell phones*. ~No *eating nor drinking* inside the auditorium.

New guests please complete a Welcome Card. Returning guest please print your name in the Returning Guest Log in the foyer for attendance.

A *Suggestion Box* and *Prayer Request* cards are located in the foyer. All are welcomed.

*Contributions* can be made electronically via Zelle (recommended) using the church's email-westhammondcoc@gmail.com.

Please send any *requests* and *announcements* to be made or to be included in the bulletin to Sis. Ruthie Gamble at 708-336-3120.

The Men's Class will now meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

The Ladies' Class has been put on hold until further notice.

Do you want to have your *bible restored*? Contact Susan Reinsma (Rusticiournals on Etsy (708) 878-3002, Highland, IN

# ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

The 37th Annual Retreat will take place next year, March 28-31, 2024 in Orlando, Florida. The theme is Christian Women: A Steadfast Extraordinary Journey. Registration is now open. Website: *www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org* Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.

# HOMELESS MISSION

Volunteers are needed to finish stuffing the bags next Sunday, Nov. 26th after worship service. The distribution of the care packages will be on Sunday, December 3rd. We will need drivers to help with the distribution in the city.

# TRAVELING

Prayers for Sis. Carter and Sis. Mickles. Sis. Dana Davis will be away for several weeks attending to family matters in Kansas.

# FOR PRAYERS:

The Ricks family, the Webster family, Brenda Gilbert, friend of Sis. Lightfoot, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis are ill. Sis. Simpson & family, the Strickland

family, Tasha Coates, friend of Sis. Lennon, Sis. Roya Cossom & family, Bro. Simmons & family, Sis. Ellis, Bro. & Sis. Conner & family, Sis. Blanche and Andriana Mendenhall, Bro. Paul Woodard, Greg Lewis, the cousin of Sis. Davis, Sis. Goldman, the Brantfords,

### SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Children's Bible Class taught by Sis. Carter (lower level).

Young Adult Class taught by Bro. Taylor. (upper level)

Adult Bible Class taught by Bro. Webster (main auditorium)

Fortifying the Christian Class taught by Bro. Ed. Davis (lower level)

### **NO BIRTHDAYS**

#### ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

The Hardys

Fri, Nov. 24th

# SKILLS BANK

Remember to submit your information to be added to the skills bank and be diligent to do your verification for relevant licensing. Sis. Webster ......Real Estate Agent Sis. Debra Woodard ......Financial Advisor Gambles .....Property Preservation & Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)



#### Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	99
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	39
Last Sunday's offering	\$3,363.71
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13