

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." **1John 1:5***

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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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

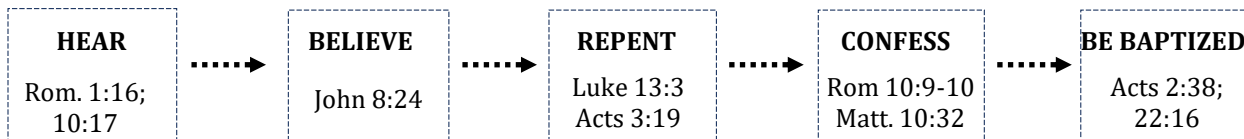
Wednesday

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

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?



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

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Are You Waiting for a Sign?

In our modern world, marked by skepticism and a desire for proof, we often find people questioning the existence of God and seeking tangible signs to validate their faith. In Matt. 12:38 says "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." These Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to prove tangibly that He was the Son of God.

In a world filled with uncertainty and fraudsters, it is natural for individuals to seek assurance and solid evidence. People long for something tangible to validate their beliefs and alleviate their doubts. The desire for a sign is not unique to this generation alone but has been present throughout history. It stems from a genuine yearning for confirmation and a sense of security on their Christian journey. The rise of science and the emphasis on rationalism have shaped the way people approach faith. Many have been conditioned to rely on empirical evidence and logical reasoning.

Faith, by its very nature, requires trust and belief in the unseen. The quest for signs reduces spirituality to a mere transaction of proofs and evidence. Jesus Himself encountered this challenge when He addressed the Pharisees and religious leaders of His time who demanded signs. He emphasized the importance of faith, reminding them that signs alone do not guarantee true belief.

We must not forget that the era of signs has ended (Heb 2:3-4). The word "sign" in Matt. 12:38 also means "miracle." What leads us to believe in Christ as the Son of God today is by reading and hearing the word. Paul says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." The Christians of Berea were described as being nobler than those in Thessalonica because, instead of looking for a sign to validate their faith, they instead searched the scriptures (Acts 17:11). True faith is built on an intimate relationship with God, grounded in His Word and guided by the Holy Spirit. It requires humility, surrender, and trust, even in the absence of visible signs.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate sign of God's love, mercy, and salvation. His life, death, and resurrection provide the greatest evidence of God's existence and His redemptive plan for humanity. By fixing our eyes on Him as our Lord and Savior, we can find the assurance and fulfillment we long for.

R. Webster

The quest for signs reduces spirituality to a mere transaction of proofs and evidence!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are excited that the wall installations has been completed in the upstairs classrooms.



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.

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

Contributions can be made electronically via [Zelle \(recommended\)](mailto:Zelle(westhammondcoc@gmail.com)) 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.

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

Ladies, please do not wait until the last minute to register. Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.

HOMELESS MISSION

We are very grateful for the support we received for the homeless mission. It will take a couple of weeks to organize the care packages. *Mission date TBD*. Please see Sis. Gamble for details.

TRAVELING

Sis. Dana Davis who will be away for several weeks attending to family matters in Kansas.

FOR CONDOLENCES:

Prayers for Sis. Goldman who has lost two family members in the last couple of weeks.

FOR PRAYERS:

Sis. Simpson & Family, The Strickland family, Tasha Coates, a family friend of Sis. Lennon, Sis. Roya Cossom & family, Bro. Simmons & family, Sis. Ellis, Bro. & Sis. Conner & family, the Davises, Sis. Blanche and Andriana Mendenhall, Bro. Paul Woodard, Greg Lewis, the cousin of Sis. Davis, Sis. Goldman, the Brantfords, Quince Dixon, Sis. Cunningham's.

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)

BIRTHDAYS

SIS. CARTER	TUES, 11/7
SIS. GAMBLE	TUES, 11/7
SIS. TENE MENDENHALL	WED. 11/8

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

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. WebsterReal Estate Agent
Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor
GamblesProperty Preservation & Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	90
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	45
Last Sunday's offering	\$6,408.51
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13