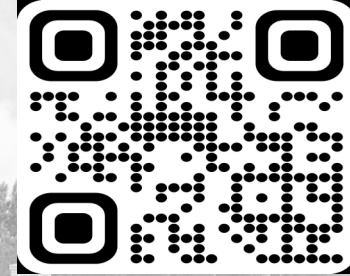


Text:
Topic:

Sermon Notes



THE MESSENGER





*"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***

Volume 8 **August 18, 2024** **Issue 3**

Minister: Robert Webster
(708) 752-5589
(robster67@gmail.com)

www.westhammondcoc.com

 westhammondcoc@gmail.com

 1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

Secretary: Sis. Ruthie Gamble
(219)742-9520 (requests/announcements)
(whcocsecretary@gmail.com)

WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

- Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
Sis. Carter (lower level)
- Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Bro. Taylor (upper level)
- Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Bro. Webster (main auditorium)
- Fortifying the Christian Class.. 10 a.m.
Bro. Ed. Davis (lower level)
- Worship Service 11 a.m.

Wednesday

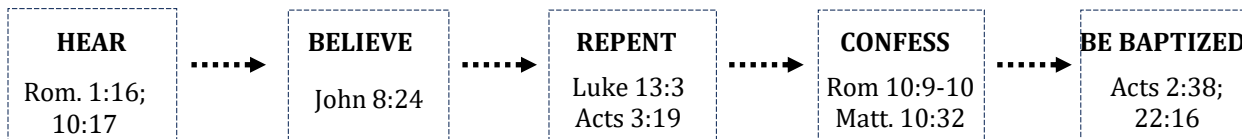
- Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.
Access through the website

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 when it is being passed around.

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."
Psalms 122:1*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

“Unless I See...I will not believe!”

In our modern world, we often seek tangible proof before we believe something. We want evidence that is visible, measurable, and indisputable. This mindset is essential in many areas of life, especially in science and law, where proof is necessary to establish truth. However, when it comes to our relationship with God, the dynamic shifts. The Bible teaches us that faith, not proof, is the foundation of our relationship with God. This is what Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus, had to learn as he questioned whether it was really the resurrected Jesus by saying, “*Unless I see...I will not believe.*” (John 20:25)

Faith, as described in Hebrews 11:1, “*is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” It is not dependent on physical evidence or logical reasoning. Instead, it is a trust that goes beyond what the eyes can see or what the mind can comprehend. This kind of faith calls us to believe in the promises of God, even when there is no visible sign of them being fulfilled.

Consider the story of Abraham. God promised him that he would be the father of many nations, yet for years, he remained childless. There was no proof, no evidence that this promise would come to pass. But Abraham's faith did not waver. He believed in the promise of God, even when it seemed impossible. His faith was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4:3).

...faith is not the absence of doubt or questions, but rather the willingness to trust God in the midst of uncertainty.

In contrast, the demand for proof can sometimes hinder our spiritual growth. The Pharisees, in the New Testament, often demanded signs and miracles from Jesus as proof of His divine authority. Despite witnessing numerous miracles, they still struggled to believe. Their reliance on proof, rather than faith, blinded them to the truth of who Jesus was. Seeking understanding and evidence is not wrong. However, it's crucial to remember that not everything about God and His ways can be proven or understood by human reasoning. Faith involves trust—trusting in God's character, His promises, and His plan for our lives, even when we cannot see the full picture.

In our daily walk with Christ, let us be reminded that faith is not the absence of doubt or questions, but rather the willingness to trust God in the midst of uncertainty. We may not always have the proof we desire, but we have the promises of God, which are far more reliable. As we navigate the challenges of life, may we hold fast to our faith, confident that God is faithful to fulfill His word, even when we cannot see how He will do it.

~Bro. R. Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS

~Please silence your *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.

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

Contact the church's secretary at 219-742-9520 for any of the following:

- ◆ **Requests** or **announcements** to be made or to be included in the bulletin.
- ◆ **Corrections** or **updates** to your information in the church's online directory.

OUR CONGREGATION'S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

We implore every member to pray for the successful implementation of this program, which will allow each and every member to play an integral role.

The *Men's Class* and *Ladies' Class* meet **every** Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

Next year's retreat will be April 10th-13th in Chicago, IL. The theme is

Christian Women: Surrendering All

Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

*****See Sis. Webster for registration details*****

This year it's literally at our doorstep, eliminating the cost of air fare to go to another state. Do make the effort to attend.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

All members are encouraged to attend Sunday evening worship service at 6:00pm, as we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25 “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.*” Invite friends and families to attend.

TRAVELING

Prayers for Bro. Oddman & family who are in Jamaica to funeralize his brother.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Continue to pray for and encourage our newer members.

FOR PRAYERS

Jade Neal, the granddaughter of Sis. Ellis Malik McNeil, Andriana and the entire Mendenhall family. Sister Ricks & family. Sis. Hardy's mother, Vladis Reynolds. Quince Dixon, family member of the Cunninghams. Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Angelice Cunningham, Sis. Brantford, Sis. Harley-Simpson Sis. Janece Carter, Sis. Conner, Sis Della White and Sis. Ellis.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

SIS. ANGELICE CUNNINGHAM
SIS. ANNETTE BRANTFORD



SUN. 8/18
SAT. 8/24

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Appointing Elders

We will be hosting a two day lesson on “The church and Eldership” on Wednesday, September 11th and Thursday, September 12th, starting at 6:30 pm. Our presenter will be Bro. Eddie Taylor. This is very important as we aspire to appointing qualified men as elders to oversee the church, here, at West Hammond.

ATTENTION

Sunday morning Zoom has been discontinued. However, Wednesday evening Bible class will continue on Zoom.

Sunday morning sermons will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube by the end of day each Sunday.

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	74
Sunday PM Worship	20
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	38
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3,373.51
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13