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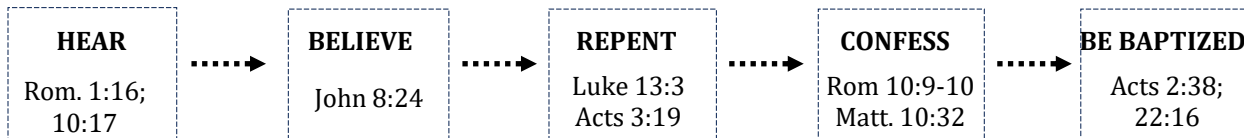
Sermon Notes



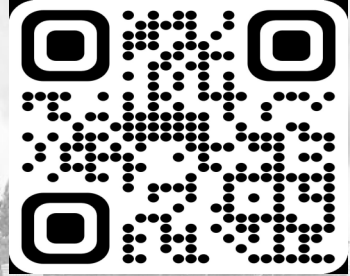
ORDER OF SERVICE

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?



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***

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WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sundays

- Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
Sis. LaDonna Carter (lower level)
- Young People's Class10 a.m.
Bro. Ej. Taylor (upper level)
- New Christians' Class10 a.m.
Bro. Webster (upper level)
- Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Bro. Lightfoot (main auditorium)
- Sunday A.M. Service11 a.m.
- Sunday P.M. Service6 p.m.
- Wednesdays (resumes 1/8/25)**
- Bible Study (on Zoom).....7 p.m.
Access through the website

Thursdays

Men's & Ladies Classes6:30 p.m.

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.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Do I Really Need to Know Doctrine?

As our society becomes more liberal, an increasing number of religious folks are now questioning whether studying doctrine is truly necessary. Isn't it enough to love Jesus and try to live a good life? While love for Christ is essential, understanding doctrine—the teachings of the Bible—provides a firm foundation for our faith, guiding our lives and guarding us from error.

What Is Doctrine? Doctrine simply means the teachings or principles found in the Scriptures. It encompasses what we believe about God, Jesus Christ, salvation, the church, and eternity. Doctrine answers life's biggest questions, such as: Who is God? What is the purpose of life? How can we be saved? Without doctrine, our faith risks becoming shallow and disconnected from the truth of God's Word. Without the doctrine of God, we risk establishing or concocting our own system of righteousness as some of Paul's Jewish brethren had done (Rom. 10:3).

It is critically important to understand that not just any doctrine will do. John specifically mentioned that if anyone "...does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God (2 John 9). In fact, the doctrine must not be treated a trivial matter, instead, Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 3:10 "But you have carefully followed my doctrine." A casual treatment of the doctrine will result in our spiritual casualty!

Why Does Doctrine Matter? It gives our faith foundation. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (1 Timothy 4:16). Doctrine helps to shape how we live. Sound doctrine roots us in the truth, enabling us to stand firm when life's storms come. It helps us to differentiate that which is false in a world full of competing ideologies. We would do well to learn from the Bereans in Acts 17:11, who eagerly examined the Scriptures daily to confirm if what the apostles spoke was truth. We are spiritually equipped and complete when we study and embrace the God-given scriptures. Paul told Timothy that "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

So then, knowing doctrine is not an academic exercise; it is the lifeblood of a thriving faith. It anchors us in truth, draws us closer to God, and empowers us to live as His children. Yes, you really do need to know doctrine—because it transforms both your understanding and your life.

~Bro. R. Webster

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS

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

PARDON OUR DUST

Over the next few weeks, we will undergo several phases to install two new restrooms.



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.

NEW CHRISTIANS' CLASS

Bro. Webster is teaching this class for all new Christians dating back to 2022.

OUR CONGREGATION'S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

We implore every member to get involved in the evangelistic mission of the church. Following Jesus' example and teachings we, too, are expected to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10

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

WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

To accommodate the holiday, class will resume, Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Continue to pray for and encourage all our new converts.

TRAVELING

Sis. Washington will be out of town until January 6, 2025.

FOR CONDOLENCES

Sis. Cotton lost her mother last week. She was Sis. Donna Carter of the Harvey Church of Christ.

PRAYERS

Chloe & Brennen Davis, the son and granddaughter of Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Brooke Gamble, Robert Bailey, relative of the Cunningham family, who was recently diagnosed with liver cancer. Sis. Doris Davis, Sis. Jesseann Taylor, Sis. Washington & family, especially her daughter Yasha O'Neal. Sis. Chambers and family, Sis. Woodard and her mother. Carla King, the niece of Sis. Webster. Sis. Hardy, her mother, niece, and sister, Ms. Boyd, who recently had a back surgery. Bro. Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Della White, Sis. Ricks, Quince Dixon, Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Angelice Cunningham, Sis. Brantford, and Sis Ellis.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

BRO. STRICKLAND
SIS. THIGPEN



TUES. 12/24
SAT. 12/28

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

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 group information

Information about scholarships, awards and registration is on the notice board in the foyer.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Contact Bro. Mendenhall if you, or anyone you invite to church, will need a ride to get here.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Bro. EJ is planning a celebration for the students' end of semester. Please see Bro. EJ if you have not yet responded with your child's progress report.



Last Week's Record

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday AM Worship | 82 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 21 |
| Wednesday Bible Class | 42 |
| Last Sunday's Offering | \$4,780.71 |
| Weekly Budget | \$4,069.13 |

