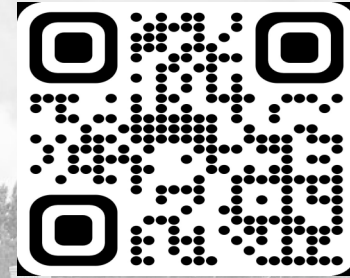


Text:
Topic:

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 12

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Issue 2

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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

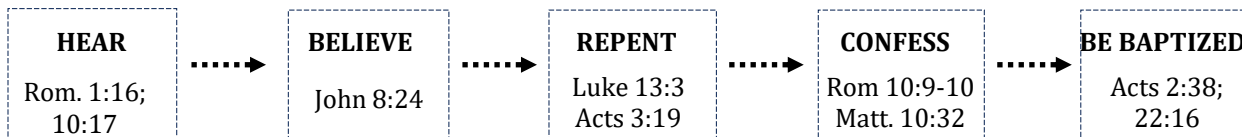
- Bible Study (on Zoom).....7 p.m.
Access through the website
- Thursdays**
- Men's & Ladies Classes6:30 p.m.

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.

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

Are We Living as Victors or Victims?

Life often brings challenges, disappointments, and struggles that tests our faith and resilience. As Christians, we face a critical question: Will we live as *victors* in Christ or succumb to being *victims* of circumstances? This question is not merely philosophical—it shapes how we live, respond to trials, and attest to the power of the gospel.

God's word consistently reminds us of our identity in Christ. Romans 8:37 declares, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." This victory is not based on our own strength or circumstances but on Christ's finished work on the cross. Through Him, we are empowered to overcome sin, fear, and every obstacle life throws our way. A victim mindset, however, traps us in a cycle of defeat, resentment, and self-pity, blinding us to the abundant life God has promised. A victim sees life through the lens of "why me," often clinging to past hurts or present difficulties. This mindset can lead to bitterness, hopelessness, and a sense of helplessness. While it's natural to feel pain and grief in hard times, staying in that place is not God's will for His children. Victimhood can also hinder our ability to forgive, trust God's plan, and move forward in faith. On the other hand, a victor chooses to trust God even in adversity. Victors embrace the truth that God is sovereign and is working all things for good (Romans 8:28). They refuse to let circumstances define them, leaning on God's promises and power instead. This doesn't mean ignoring challenges, but facing them with courage and hope, knowing that Christ's victory over death secures their eternal hope.

Being a victor doesn't mean we won't face struggles—it means we face them with God's strength.

So, how can we live as victors rather than victims? First, anchor our faith in Christ, not in our circumstances. Regularly immerse ourselves in God's Word to renew our minds with His truth. Second, adopt an attitude of gratitude, recognizing God's faithfulness in every season. Finally, rely on the Holy Spirit for strength to persevere and forgive.

Being a victor doesn't mean we won't face struggles—it means we face them with God's strength. When we live as victors, we reflect the power of the gospel to a world that is watching us, as Christians. Let us reject the mentality of victimhood and walk boldly in the victory that is ours in Christ Jesus!


~Bro. R. Webster

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-
westhammondco@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.

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.

FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Doris Davis is scheduled for back surgery tomorrow. Sis. Jesseann Taylor had a successful knee surgery. Carla King, the niece of Sis. Ann-Marie Webster. Sister Glenda McKnight, Brennan Davis, son of Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Depieza, Sis. McGee and the Harris family, Sis. Tene & Sis. Andria Mendenhall, Sis. Thigpen, Sis. Hardy, her mother and her niece, Dava Goumbala, Bro. Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Della White, Bro. Baggett & family from AL., Sis. Ricks, Quince Dixon, Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Angelice Cunningham, Sis. Brantford, and Sis. Ellis.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sis. AKEELAH WEBSTER
*Emmanuel Salazar



Thurs. 12/12
Fri. 12/13

*Denotes not a member

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

TRAVELING

Bro. Webster who is currently in Jamaica visiting family.

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.

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.

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)

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

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	81
Sunday PM Worship	20
Wednesday Bible Class	53
Last Sunday's Offering	\$4,112.91
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13