#### **Sermon Notes**

Text: Topic:



#### **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?

HEAR	 BELIEVE	 REPENT	 CONFESS	 BE BAPTIZED
Rom. 1:16; 10:17	John 8:24	Luke 13:3 Acts 3:19	Rom 10:9-10 Matt. 10:32	Acts 2:38; 22:16



## 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." I John 1:5

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#### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES** Sundays

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 Class10 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.						

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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 when it is being passed around.

### **CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

## The Credibility of Jesus is Fundamental to our Faith

Skepticism surrounding religion is common, leading to questions about Jesus' credibility. What if He wasn't who He claimed to be? Addressing this is crucial for both believers and non-believers, as it impacts faith, history, theology, and practical living. Let us examine three aspects of His credibility.

Firstly, consider the historical evidence. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are documented not only in the Bible but also in secular records. The Gospels offer eyewitness accounts of His miracles and teachings. The apostle Paul, in 1 Cor. 15:3-6 "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that

If Jesus is not credible, hope is lost. But if He is, He is the source of truth, life, and salvation.

He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep." This records for us the historical reliability of Jesus' resurrection, citing eyewitnesses, including over five hundred people. His resurrection is the very foundation of our faith and Christianity. (1 Cor. 15:14, 17).

Secondly, Jesus' teachings have withstood the test of time. His message of love, forgiveness, and redemption has transformed lives throughout history. His bold claim in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life," challenges us to examine His words. This bold claim challenges us to examine the truth of His words. If Jesus is not credible, then His teachings lose their power. But if He is who He says He is, then His words are life-changing and eternal.

Thirdly, the impact of Jesus' life and ministry is undeniable. The existence of the church, the spread of the Gospel, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit testify to His credibility. Acts 1:3 highlights the "many infallible proofs" presented by Jesus after His resurrection, further affirming His credibility.

Ultimately, every man must decide on Jesus' credibility for himself. As Peter declared in John 6:68-69, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." If Jesus is not credible, hope is lost. But if He is, He is the source of truth, life, and salvation. Seeking Him with open hearts and minds leads to the understanding that He is indeed who He claims to be.

~Bro. R. Webster

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### REMINDERS



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

NEW BATHROOM FACILITIES
Great news! The bathrooms are finally completed and ready to use. Thank you all for your patience these past few months.

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.

Send request for *year-end contribution statements*, send an email request to whoocsecretary@gmail.com-text to 219-742-9520.

#### **NEW CHRISTIANS' CLASS**

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

#### **OUR CONGREGATION'S EVANGELISM PROGRAM**

Every member is encouraged 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* are on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP**

Sunday evening worship service needs the support of our members. It starts at 6:00pm, and we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Invite friends and families to attend.

#### NEW BIRTHS & MEMBERSHIP PLACEMENT

Continue to pray for and encourage all our new additions to the body of Christians who meet here at West Hammond Church of Christ.

#### CONDOLENCES

Please continue to pray for the families of Kevin (Trotter) McKnight, and Enrique Duncan. Enrique Duncan passed away this past Wednesday due to complications of a stroke. Coincidentally, Kevin and Enrique were neighbors and close family/acquaintances of the Cunningham family.

#### **PRAYERS**

Sis. Thigpen, Sis. Brenda Brown, the sister of Bro Eddie Taylor, the Mendenhall family, Levell Chaff, the brother of Sis. Chaff, the Normans, Sis. Simpson, Bro. Darrell Hicks, Sis. Mickles co-worker who has been diagnosed with cancer, Sis. Lennon's mother, Bro. Carter, the Brantfords, the Simmons, the Goldmans, Vladis New guests please complete A Welcome Card.
Returning guest, upon each visit, please print your name in the Returning Guest Log in the foyer.

Brantfords, the Simmons, the Goldmans, Vladis Reynolds, the mother of Sis. Hardy, the Hardys, Sis.

Brooke Gamble Sis Lightfoot Sis Ellis Sis Angelice Brooke Gamble, Sis. Lightfoot, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Angelice A Suggestion Box and Prayer Request cards are located Cunningham, Bro & Sis. Arthur Davis, Sis. Davis' in the foyer. brother, Norman Hamilton who is placed on hospice Contributions can be made electronically via Zelle care, Denise Day, Sis. Conner's sister, Sis. Laurene (recommended) using the church's email- Cunningham, Quince Dixon and Johnny Bailey, westhammondcoc@gmail.com. relatives of the Cunningham family who are both facing some serious health issues.

#### NO BIRTHDAYS NOR ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#### TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

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

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Sis. Akeelah Webster has accepted membership into the National Society of High School Scholars for outstanding academic performance. Also, yesterday at a track & field meet, she ran a new personal record in the 800m race.

Sis. Washington's grandson, Bryce Geiger, won both his 800m and 1500m races.

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

#### ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

Date: April 10th-13th in Chicago, IL. Theme: Christian Women: Surrendering All Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

#### Last Week's Record ...dorr AM Manahin

Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3,711.00
Wednesday Bible Class	35 i
Sunday PM Worship	21
Sunday AM Worship	73 i