

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Stay Awake!

As the things of this world are constantly demanding our attention and energy, it is easy to get spiritually drowsy. The constant distractions, the daily stresses, and the appeal of worldly comforts can lull us into a state of slumber. Yet, in his letter to the Thesalonians, Paul issues a powerful call to action: "Stay Awake!"

In 1 Thess. 5, Paul reminds the Christians that they are **"not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief"**. (v. 4) He clarifies that while the Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly for the world, it should not be a surprise for those of us who are in Christ. Why? Because we are **"children of light and children of the day"**. (v. 5) This is not just a title; it's a new position that carries great responsibility. We belong to the light, and therefore, we should live like it. Being a "child of the day" means living with spiritual awareness and a sense of readiness. It means not being like those who are "asleep," but instead, being "sober," alert, and focused on the things of God. The hope of Christ's return is not an excuse to be lazy or complacent; it is a powerful motivation to live a life of purpose and vigilance. As the author of Hebrews reminds us, **"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful"**. (Heb. 10:23)

SO, HOW DO WE "STAY AWAKE" IN A SLEEPING WORLD?

First, we put on the **"armor of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation"**. (v. 8) Our daily spiritual walk is a battle, and we need to be spiritually armed and ready. Second, we are to **"encourage one another and build one another up"**. (v. 11) We don't stand alone in this. Our church family is essential for keeping us accountable and helping us stay on the right path. As the writer of Proverbs says, **"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another"**. (Prov. 27:17) Finally, we are to **"pray without ceasing, rejoice always, and give thanks in all circumstances"**. (vv. 16-18) These are practical, powerful habits that keep our hearts and minds fixed on the Lord.

The promise of Christ's return is not meant to create fear us but to fill us with a lively hope. Let's live in the light, ready for our Lord, and encourage one another to stay awake until He comes.

~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, upon **each** visit, 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.
- ◆ If you would like a list of the **absent members**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

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

OUR CONGREGATION'S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Every member is expected to get involved in the evangelistic mission of the church. Following Jesus' example and teachings, we are to be seeking and saving the lost. Luke 19:10

PRAYERS

Bro. Daniel Carter, Bro. Carter's brother, suffered a stroke and is hospitalized. The sister-in-law of the Conners, Erin Mackey, Sis. Salazar's 11 yr. old niece, Glorimar, Sis. Chamber's grandson, Danny Powell, the Simmons, Sis. Washington and her grandson, Dawson, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, as well as his brother, Melvin Davis, the Hardys and Vladis Reynolds, the mother of Sis. Hardy, Levell Chaff, brother of Sis. Chaff, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Brantfords, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham, Irene Herron, Quince Dixon, and Vera Johnson, sisters of Sis. Laurene Cunningham.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The sermons are recorded and can be accessed via the church's YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and type in West Hammond Church of Christ and click, "Playlist". **YouTube is no longer live.**

For this Wednesday's Bible class we will start studying the book of **2 Thessalonians**. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.

CONDOLENCES

Bro. Webster has returned from a recent trip to Jamaica after the loss of his aunt.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We are in need of volunteers for this position. In the interim, let Bro. Webster know if you or anyone you invite to church needs a ride.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Do continue to pray for and encourage all our new converts and those young in the faith.

NO BIRTHDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

LADIES CLASS NEWS

Sis. Teresa Trussell will present this week's lesson.

Topic: Dealing with Temptation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:13



We are planning on hosting a **Ladies' Day** this year. The proposed date is October 25th. This event will be spearheaded by Sisters Jameka & Whitney Taylor. Please give these young Sisters your full support.

There is a sign-up sheet on the ledge, in the foyer, to indicate your intention to be in attendance.

Have a Prayer Request?

Besides walking forward, you may also write it on the back of the visitor's card and give it one of the brothers serving.

Useful Resources

"Preaching the gospel" is available on both Dish Network channel 267 and Direct TV channel 376 on Sunday mornings at 6:30 Central Time.

Gospel Broadcasting Network is a brotherhood sponsored television station. Go to www.GBNTV.org. You can also find very useful videos on YouTube. Just type in GBNTV.

Last Week's Record

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday AM Worship | 54 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 28 |
| Wednesday Bible Class | 40 |
| Last Sunday's Offering | \$3,518.00 |
| Weekly Budget | \$4,069.13 |