

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

No work, No Food!

Have you ever felt the satisfaction of finishing a tough job that you poured your heart into? How about being on a team project where one person did nothing but still expected to get full credit? There is a powerful, God-given, connection between our effort and our contribution.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul addressed a group of people who had stopped working. They were waiting idly for the Lord's return, becoming a burden on the church. Paul's instruction was loving but firm: **"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."** (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Paul is not addressing those who cannot work due to disability, layoff, or other circumstances beyond their control. In fact, the church has a clear and sacred duty to care for the vulnerable, the widow, the orphan, and those in genuine need (James 1:27). Instead, he is addressing a specific issue in the Thessalonian church where some members, believing that Christ's return was near, had become idle. They stopped contributing to the work of the church and instead became busybodies, relying on the generosity of others to sustain their inactivity. So, Paul wanted them to understand the principle of personal responsibility. Our faith in Jesus should not lead to idleness; it should inspire us to become the most diligent, reliable, and helpful people in our congregation. Our daily work—whether it's in an office, a classroom, at home, or volunteering—is an opportunity to honor God.

This timeless principle applies to everyone. For adults, it's about working with integrity and excellence in our careers and serving our families with love and affection. For teenagers, it's about applying yourself to your studies, helping with chores without being asked, and using your talents to build up others. The Bible consistently champions a spirit of diligence. Prov. 6:6 tells us to **"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways and be wise!"** Ultimately, our work is an act of worship. Col. 3:23 encourages us, **"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."** When we see our tasks as assignments from God, it transforms our attitude. We are not just earning a paycheck or a grade; we are fulfilling the purpose for which we were made, as Eph. 2:10 reminds us, we are **"created in Christ Jesus for good works."**

This week, let us show the world a faith that gets its hands dirty. Let us be known as a people who contribute, create, and serve with joy.

~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-
westhammondccoc@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. 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.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

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

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.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Bro. Cunningham



Wed. 9/24

NO ANNIVERSARIES

LADIES CLASS NEWS

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

Topic: Dealing with Temptation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:13

There will be a Ladies' Day meeting this coming Saturday, Sept. 27th at 10 AM at the church building for the planning and preparations for the upcoming Ladies Day event. Please view the committee list on the notice board in the foyer.

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

Sunday AM Worship	72
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wednesday Bible Class	29
Last Sunday's Offering	\$6,839.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13