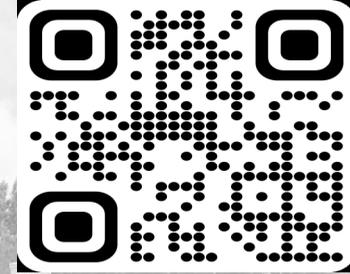


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### Sermon Notes



# 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 9**

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**Issue 1**

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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.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES **Sundays**

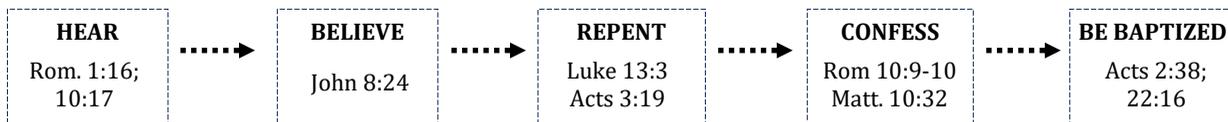
Morning Service .....10 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School .....12 noon  
*Sis. LaDonna Carter (lower level)*  
Young People's Class .....12 noon  
*Bro. Ej. Taylor (upper level)*  
New Christians' Class .....12 noon  
*Bro. Webster (upper level)*  
Adult Bible Class.....12 noon  
*Bro. Eddie Taylor (main auditorium)*  
Evening Service .....6 p.m.

**Wednesdays**  
Bible Study (on Zoom).....7 p.m.  
*Access via the website*  
**Thursdays**  
Men's & Ladies' Classes .....6:30 p.m.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Song ~ Song ~ Opening Prayer~ Song~ Scripture Reading~ Song~ Sermon~ Song~ Lord's Supper  
~ Offering~ Song~ Closing Prayer~ Announcements

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



# 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 Thessalonians, 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](mailto: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

Sis. Webster has a sinus infection & bronchitis, the sister-in-law of the Conners, Erin Mackey, is undergoing cancer treatment, Sis. Salazar's 11 yr. old niece, Glorimar, Sis. Chamber's grandson, Danny Powell, the Simmons, Sis. Washinton 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 **1 Thessalonians**. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOLERS

Special prayers for all students, teachers and other school personnel at all levels for the new school year.

## 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.

## TRAVELING & CONDOLENCES

Bro. Webster is in Jamaica. He also lost one of his aunts, his mother's sister.

## NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

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



## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sis. Serena Webster  
Sis. Simmons



Today, 9/7  
Web. 9/10

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#2 Sis. Glenda & Keith McKnight  Wed., 9/10

## LADIES CLASS NEWS

Sis. Jameka Taylor will present this week's lesson.  
**Topic: Equally and Unequally Yoked**  
**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14**

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 will be a brief meeting today after Bible class to discuss the Ladies Day committees/groups & planning. Please plan to attend.

## 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](http://www.GBNTV.org). You can

### Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	71
Sunday PM Worship	30
Wednesday Bible Class	40
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3504.00
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>