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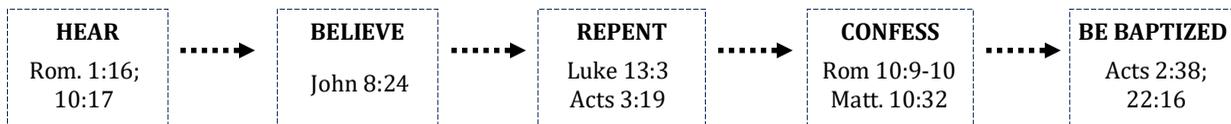
Sermon Notes



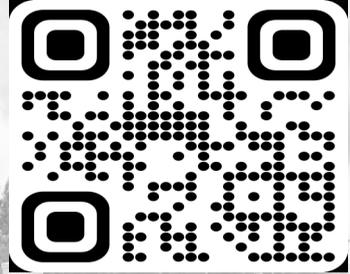
ORDER OF SERVICE

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?



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 1

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Issue 2

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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 Service10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School12 noon

Sis. LaDonna Carter (lower level)

Young People's Class12 noon

Bro. Ej. Taylor (upper level)

New Christians' Class12 noon

Bro. Webster (upper level)

Adult Bible Class.....12 noon

Bro. Eddie Taylor (main auditorium)

Evening Service6 p.m.

Wednesdays

Bible Study (on Zoom).....7 p.m.

Access via the website

Thursdays

Men's & Ladies' Classes6:30 p.m.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

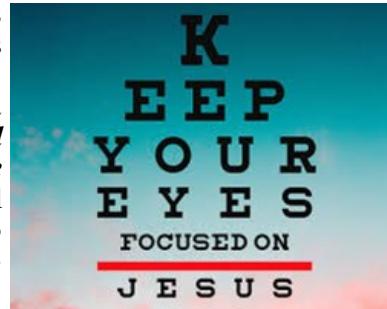
Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!

As our society gets increasingly loud, chaotic, and unpredictable, it is easy to lose our spiritual bearings. Much like a traveler caught in a sudden desert sandstorm, the "landmarks" of our faith can sometimes be obscured by the swirling anxieties of modern life. When we lose our focus, we lose our direction; and when we lose our direction, we risk wandering aimlessly.

The Israelites faced a similar struggle during their journey to the Promised Land. In Numbers 21, we find a people who had become discouraged by the "way" and the "roughness" of their journey. They took their eyes off the Prize—the land flowing with milk and honey—and began to complain.

The Danger of Distraction

When we focus on the obstacles rather than the One who overcomes them, our spiritual senses become dull. The Israelites' lack of focus led to rebellion, which resulted in a plague of fiery serpents. However, God provided a way back to clarity. He instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. *"And so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."* (Numbers 21:9). The "look" required here was not a casual glance; it was a fixed, intentional gaze. In order to live, they had to ignore the pain of their bites and the chaos of the camp and look steadfastly at the provision of God.



Look Toward the True Prize

Today, our "bronze serpent" is the promise of God's presence and the ultimate Prize of our high calling. We are warned in the scriptures to avoid *"leaning on our own understanding"* which leads to spiritual confusion and frustration. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Stay the Course

If you feel overwhelmed by a confusing world, remember that your spiritual direction is maintained through fixed vision. When we keep our eyes on the Lord, the distractions of the world lose their power to pull us off course. We are not wandering; we are being led. As it says in Isaiah 26:3 - *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*

Let us commit this week to lifting our eyes above the horizon of our current troubles and fixing them firmly on the Prize.

~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**.

If you would like a **year-end contribution statement**, please send an email request to **whcocsecretary@gmail.com** or text to 219-742-9520

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

Crystal Coleman, the aunt of Sis. Jameka Taylor had surgery. The Brantfords, Sis. Chambers' family, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Goldmans and Sis. Ellis.

The following families have lost loved ones recently: Washington, Moses, Conner, Webster, Knott-Lawrence, Kirksy, Cunningham, Herron, Hardy, Reynolds, Williams, Francis & Sanders.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Continue to pray for and encourage all of our new converts.

QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP

Our first quarterly lunch fellowship for this year will be on the 3rd Sunday of March. This is designed to strengthen our spiritual bond which is essential to our spiritual family.

LADIES' CLASS NEWS

The ladies will be starting a new book. See Sis. Whitney Taylor for ordering information. Read & answer questions from Lesson 1, Day 1 in preparation this week's class.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Please read the book of **Jude** in preparation for class.



BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Bro. Juan Bell
Sis. Goldman



Sat., 1/17
Sat., 1/17

JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF

A huge thanks to all who have given to this humanitarian cause. The recovery process will take years for many who were severely affected.

Bro. Webster is currently in Jamaica to oversee the use and distribution of the love offering from the West Hammond congregation.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

On Jan, 17th at 10 am, there will be a fellowship breakfast downstairs for members and guests ages 60 and up. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer and indicate how many guest(s) will be in attendance with you. Other members are being asked to show up to serve.

BRING-A-FRIEND DAY

For 2026 this event will launch on Sunday, February 22, and will happen every 2 months. These special days support our church's evangelism efforts. Invite family, friends, neighbors! A special prize will be given to the person who invites the most based on categories which will be announced. Let's share God's love together!



Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	66
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wednesday Bible Class	31
Last Sunday's Offering	\$4,125.00
Last week's Jamaica Relief Support	\$300.00
Total Jamaica Relief Support	\$12,165.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13