

**Sermon Notes**

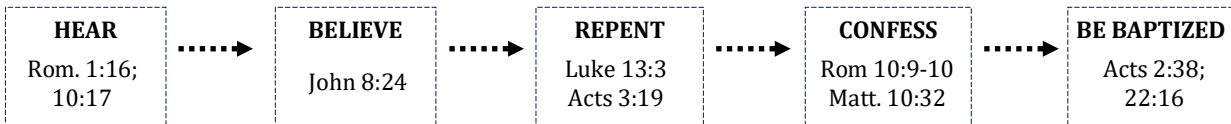
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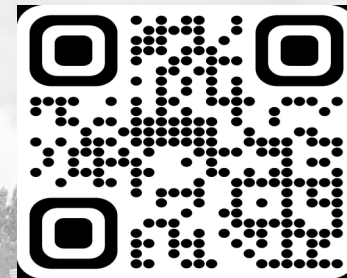
**ORDER OF SERVICE**

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***

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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.

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## The Church Is the Saved

Some individuals today argue that the church was never a part of God's original plan. They contend that it was unknown in the Old Testament and only emerged after the Jews rejected Christ, suggesting that God had to revise His intentions. This notion is fundamentally misguided and contradicts biblical teachings. Such beliefs have led many to mistakenly view the church as unimportant to God, encouraging a similar attitude among believers. In reality, the church holds an essential place in God's plan!

First, the New Testament clearly shows that the church was always in God's plan. In *Ephesians 3:10-11 (NKJV)*, Paul writes that God's wisdom is made known "by the church... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." Notice those words: *the church* and *eternal purpose*. This tells us that the church was not an afterthought. It was a part of God's plan from the very beginning—even before the world began. God has always had a plan to save people through Jesus Christ, and the church is central to that plan.

Second, we need to understand what the church really is. The Bible teaches that the church is not a building or a denomination—it is made up of people who are saved. In *Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV)*, the Bible says, "Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body." Here we see that the *church* and the *body* are the same (*Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18*). And Christ is the Savior of that body. So, what does that mean? It means the church is made up of those who are saved by Jesus. Simply put: **the church is the saved.**

Now think about this: if the church were not in God's plan from the beginning, that would mean salvation was not in His plan either. But the Bible says otherwise. *Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)* says we were chosen in Christ "before the foundation of the world," and *1 Peter 1:20 (NKJV)* teaches that Christ was foreordained before the world began. God has always had a plan to save mankind—and that plan includes the church.

So instead of seeing the church as something temporary or secondary, we should see it as exactly what God intended it to be: the body of Christ, made up of saved people, designed from eternity. Let us be thankful that we can be part of His church—and therefore, among the saved.

~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).

If you would like a **year-end contribution statement**, please send an email request to [whcocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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 **members** to check in on.
- ◆ Issues accessing the **membership directory**.

## SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Members are encouraged to support our evening service as we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." It starts at 6:00 pm. 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

Levell Chaff, the brother of Sis. Chaff, the Conner family, the Riley & Carter families, Dorrett Williams, the mother of Bro. Oddman, the Brantfords, Bro. Kinds, Sis. Chambers, Bro. & Sis. Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, Sis. Ellis and the Goldmans. For more information regarding the Goldmans please see Sis. Mickles.

## NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Sis. Fatima Conner, Bro. Antoine Epps, Bro. Kristopher Anderson, and Amarineé Andrews were all recently baptized. Do continue to pray for and encourage all of our new converts.

## LADIES' CLASS NEWS

The ladies are continuing to go through the lessons in their new books

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

We will be examining the following:

- \* When is re-baptism valid?
- \* When is a child eligible for baptism?

## NO BIRTHDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES

## BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Anyone who was baptized recently at this congregation, and did not receive a baptismal certificate, please see the secretary.

## ONLINE MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

This is back up and running. If you are having any technical difficulties, see Bro. & Sis. Webster or Sis. Jameka Taylor.

For uniformity, see Sis. Webster to update your picture.

If your personal information has changed, and/or your birthday or anniversary is incorrect, see Sis. R. Gamble.

## CHURCH INVITATION CARDS

An updated version of the personal-sized invitation cards are now available. Pick up what you need from the ledge in the foyer.

Remember, these can be given to anyone you come across, including your waiter at a restaurant, hairdresser, barber, postman, colleagues, etc.

## QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP

We had our first members' quarterly fellowship for the year. It was a great time of togetherness and much was accomplished. Thanks to everyone for coming out and supporting this wonderful event, and to those who worked hard behind the scenes to make it the success that it was.



## FOOD TO GO

There is a lot of food left over from yesterday which was carefully preserved in the refrigerator. Please head downstairs, on your way out, to take what you need. It will be set out for you to help yourselves.

## Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	61
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wednesday Bible Class	36
Last Sunday's Offering	\$3,731.00
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$4,069.13</b>