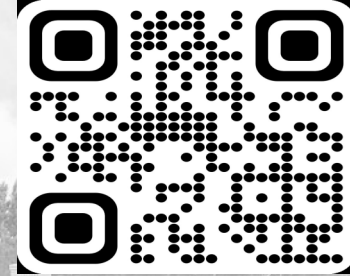


Text:
Topic:

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 5 **May 17, 2026** **Issue 3**

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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.

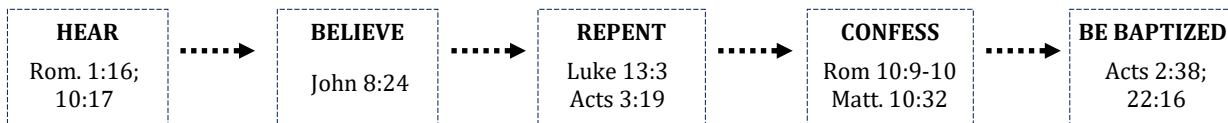
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- 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.

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?



Think on These Things

Watch and Pray

As Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane, He carried an unimaginable burden. Knowing the agonizing sacrifice ahead, He sought the spiritual support of His closest friends. He warned eight of His disciples, **“Pray that you may not enter into temptation” (Luke 22:40)**. Then, taking Peter, James, and John deeper into the shadows, He urged them to watch and pray with Him.

In deep anguish, Jesus fell to the ground. He prayed to His Father that, if possible, the cup of suffering might pass from Him. Yet, His ultimate cry was one of total surrender: **“Not my will, but yours, be done” (Luke 22:42)**. When He returned to His inner circle, however, He found them asleep. Even though He was deeply disappointed, Jesus responded with profound grace. He gently rebuked them, saying, **“The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41)**. Note that, in His darkest hour, Jesus understood their exhaustion. Yet, His warning was urgent because He knew the severe trials they were about to face. Because the disciples chose physical sleep over spiritual vigilance, they were left completely unprepared for the coming storm. When the soldiers arrived, fear and confusion overtook them, and they fled. Their folded hands in sleep led to scattered steps in fear, echoing the warning of **Proverbs 24:33-34** that spiritual slumber brings sudden poverty of the soul.

This powerful scene reveals a sobering truth: crisis demands immediate, fervent prayer. Physical exhaustion and emotional burnout are real, but they do not excuse us from seeking God. In fact, weakness is the exact moment we need Him most. As Paul later noted, God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness (**2 Cor. 12:9**). The disciples chose temporary physical rest over eternal spiritual strength. There was a reason why Jesus told them to watch and pray. **James 5:16** reminds us that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Even Jesus Himself was strengthened through His agonizing prayers (**Heb. 5:7**).

Today, we often repeat the disciples' mistake. We become distracted, careless, or spiritually asleep as Satan lingers near (**1 Pet. 5:8**). Gethsemane asks us a thought-provoking question: *Are we sleeping through the moments that require us to fight on our knees?* Do not squander your moments of fellowship. Stay alert, depend fully on prayer, and draw near to Christ before the trial comes.

~Bro. Robert 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-
westhammondco@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 **members** to check in on.
- ◆ Issues accessing the **membership directory**.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

All members are encouraged to make a special effort to be on time for worship service and to stay behind for our afternoon Sunday school,

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

Sis. Ricks lost her brother, Leon Ricks, yesterday. He was 92. Bro. Bell and his co-workers, Nicole Miller, a friend of Sis. Davis, Bro. Simmons' nephew Robert, Sis. Chaff's brother, Levell, Dorrett Williams, the mother of Bro. Oddman, the Brantfords, Bro. Kinds, Sis. Chambers & family, Bro. & Sis. Davis, Bro. Darrell Hicks, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham and the Goldmans.

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.

LIST OF COMMITTEES

A list of committees, with a description of each, is now on the notice board. Bro. Webster will be meeting with each committee to discuss plans and objectives.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

We have begun a new 12-week series entitled: **“Why we believe what we believe”**: The topic of discussion this week (week 3) will be **“How to Establish Biblical Authority.”** The lesson is available to each person upon request. Send your request to **robster67@gmail.com**.

TRAVELING

The Lightfoots and Bro. Oddman are visiting Crestwood CoC today.

LADIES CLASS NEWS

The ladies continue to study, discuss and apply the lessons from their class workbook.

MEN'S CLASS NEWS

Bro. EJ Taylor will be leading the brothers on a study of the Bible character of Judas. All brothers are asked to do their own research on this infamous person so as to meaningfully contribute to the discussion.

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.

ONLINE MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

- Having technical difficulties logging on? See Bro. & Sis. Webster or Sis. Jameka Taylor.
- See Sis. Webster to update your picture.
- If your personal information has changed, and/or your birthday or anniversary is incorrect, see Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

NO BIRTHDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

WEST HAMMOND LOGOED MERCHANDISE

Next Sunday will be the final opportunity to place your order for the t-shirts & caps. You can text your request to the secretary. If you miss the group rate, you will need to pay full price.

FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

June Friends & Family day has been put off until the 9th of August. This will kick off our three-day gospel meeting from the 9th to the 11th. More information to follow.

WEST HAMMOND & JAMAICA BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

We are continuing that which was started last year. Donations needed include: markers, crayons, pens (assorted colors) pencils, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, calculators, backpacks, navy blue and brown socks (various sizes), etc. Monetary donations are needed to bring for them to buy heavier and bulky things like shoes, notebooks and filler papers. See Sis. Webster.

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship	71
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wednesday Bible Class	45
Last Sunday's Offering	\$2,697.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13