Sermon Notes: Jesus, the Sinners Friend

Introduction (Proverbs 18:24)

Point One: Jesus Knows Us Completely (Hebrews 4:14-16; Psalm 23:1)

Point Two: Jesus Is a Friend Who Speaks (John 15:15)

Point Three: Jesus Is a Friend Who Stays (Hebrews 13:5)

Point Four: Jesus Is a Friend Who Saves (John 15:13; Romans 5:8; 2Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 40:2; Phil 4:13)

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, December 14, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rex DeFord
Scripture Reading: Ashton Hewitt (John 15:13-15)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Randy Sowder
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Jesus, the Sinners Friend)
Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon

Nursery: Rhonda Denzio (Sub: Cindie Cottingham)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Kara Littleton

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

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Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Cindy Davis is scheduled for reconstructive surgery on Tuesday.
Karen DeFord had eye surgery to correct floater issues. Everything went well.
Sonya, Hannah Hewitt, and Sharon Cooper have all been sick this past week with covid.
Robert Ewing, GayLee's nephew, had to have a stint and colostomy bag placed. He is now back at home with his family.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen DeFord** (hip deterioration), **Tonya Dowell** (several health issues, undergoing tests), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (hospice), **Lynn** (aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's, testing upcoming), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, chemo), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Benny Stephens** (oxygen), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration, clinical trial), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Mary Walton** (Regina Anderson's mom, shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's), **Mary Zarecor** (Davis's niece, tests due to low blood count).

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
16th David Kent
17th Karen DeFord, Noah Logsdon

Anniversary
18th Stan & Cindy Davis (44yrs)
19th Lonnie & Sonya Hewitt (26yrs)

Annual Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Our annual Christmas party will be December 19th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided, and we need a head count. There is a sign-up sheet on the Involvement Board in the foyer. Each person wishing to partake in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift (up to a $10 value). This can be something recycled, funny, or serious.

Calendar Update

Please make note: There will be no Men's Prayer Breakfast this month. We will start it up again on Saturday, January 24th.

Financial Peace University

The next Financial Peace class will begin Monday, January 19th and will run for 9 weeks. For more information, please contact Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski.

Cleaning Crew
December 15-20 (Team 1)

Finance Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $3532.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (22); Worship (70); PM Bible Study (11)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, December 14	1Timothy 5-6
Monday, December 15	2Timothy 1-4
Tuesday, December 16	Titus / Philemon
Wednesday, December 17	Hebrews 1-5
Thursday, December 18	Hebrews 6-9
Friday, December 19	Hebrews 10-11
Saturday, December 20	Hebrews 12-13

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"Life in Hope"

I would like to focus our attention on a word that is both ancient and urgent – Hope. I don't mean wishful thinking or vague optimism, but biblical hope – a confident expectation rooted in the character of God. We find in Romans 15:13 a benediction, a prayer, and a promise spoken by the apostle Paul. He wrote, "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (NASB)

Here, Paul is speaking to a church who is learning to live in unity, in endurance, and in the tension between suffering and glory. And he says, "*May the God of hope fill you…*" Let's explore what it means to live a life in hope – not just to have hope occasionally, but to be saturated with it, shaped by it, and sustained through it.

Paul doesn't just say "a hopeful God" – he says, "the God of hope." Hope is not just something God gives; it's something He is. In Psalm 71:5, the psalmist says, "*For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.*" Jeremiah, prophesying on behalf of God to the Jews in Babylonian captivity said, "*For I know the plans I have for you…plans to give you a future and a hope.*" (Jeremiah 29:11).

If God is the source, then hope is not circumstantial – it's relational. It's not based on what's happening around us, but on who is dwelling within us. Hope is not a human achievement. It's a divine empowerment. The Holy Spirit is the wind in our sails, the fire in our bones, and the whisper in our wilderness. We are reminded in Romans 5:5, "*Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*" Therefore, when we feel weak, the Spirit strengthens. When we feel empty, the Spirit fills us. Hope is not "self-help," but is "Spirit-help."

Back to our original passage found in Romans 15:13, Paul's prayer was that we would abound in hope. To abound means to overflow, to exceed, to spill out. God doesn't want us to survive with a teaspoon of hope – He wants us to abound.

Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." And the Hebrew writer said, "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure*" (Hebrews 6:19). Hope is not just for us – it's through us. When we abound in hope, we become beacons of light in a dark world. We become living testimonies of resurrection power.

Let me encourage you with some practical activation of hope.

Stay in the Word – Hope is birthed in truth. Romans 15:4 says, "Through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Pray with Expectation – Hope is sustained in communion with God. Philippians 4:6-7 – "Do not be anxious… but in everything by prayer…"

Encourage Others – Hope multiplies when shared. 1Thessalonians 5:11 says, "*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*"

These practices keep hope alive in us and spread it through us. Let this be your anthem, your posture, your lifestyle. Not to the point where you are just surviving, but abounding. Not just hoping – but living in hope. Remember, hope is more than a feeling; it's the anchor of the soul.