Sermon Notes: “If God Were…”

Introduction

Point One: If God were like us, we would be in trouble. (Psalm 103:8-14)

Point Two: If God were against us, we would have no hope. (Rom 8:31-39; Eph 1:11-14; 1Thess 4:1-8, 5:23-24; Rom 9:22-24)

Point Three: If God were your reflection, what would He reveal? (2Corinthians 3:18; James 1:22-25)

The Messenger

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

The Lord’s Day, January 4, 2026

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rick Lowe
Scripture Reading: Heath Reeves (Romans 9:22-24)
Worship Leader: Lonnie Hewitt
Communion: Erick Wiwczaroski
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(If God Were?)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

During Sermon

Nursery: Kathy Hanshaw (Sub: Megan Johnson)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Crystal Miller

Schedule of Services

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

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
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Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
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. We hope you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Karen DeFord is struggling with severe hip pain that is affecting her mobility. She will be having replacement surgery in February. **Virginia Short** is at Otterbein Rehab, room 20. **Mitch Davis**, preacher at Heartland, recovering from surgery to clear blood clots in his lungs. **Benny Stephens** fell and was taken to the hospital to be checked out. He is doing okay and is back at home. **Barb Surber** fell and is receiving therapy at University Heights Rehab. She is in room 811.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Tammy Bartels** (Amy's sister, breast biopsy), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen DeFord** (hip deterioration), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **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), **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, tumor is shrinking with treatment), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration), **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, experiencing low blood count, undergoing tests).

Missions

Jason & Devan Pierce (Resident Missionary @ Freed-Hardeman University); **Caleb Pierce** (Student @ Bear Valley Bible Institute); **Steve & Renee Gaudreau** (India Missions); **Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services**

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

5th Janice Kent

Anniversary

None to Report

Encouragement Sunday

Today is encouragement Sunday. There are note cards in the foyer you can fill out and have mailed for you.

Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

The next brunch for the ladies is planned for this Saturday, January 10th at 10am in the fellowship hall.

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.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The next prayer breakfast for the men is planned for Saturday, January 24th at 9am in the fellowship hall.

Area Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Our annual singing is planned for Saturday, January 31st at 5pm. We are inviting sister congregations to join us. We need some help making chili and desserts, as well as bringing condiments for the chili. If you can assist with any of these items, please sign up on the Involvement Board in the foyer.

Assistance Needed

We are looking for a couple more people to assist in the sound booth during worship services. If you are willing to help with this, please see George.

Cleaning Crew - January 4-10 (Team 3)

Finance Record for 2025

Yearly Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23

Last Week's Offering: $3,716.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (26); Worship (66); PM Bible Study (10)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, January 4	Genesis 12-15
Monday, January 5	Genesis 16-18
Tuesday, January 6	Genesis 19-21
Wednesday, January 7	Genesis 22-24
Thursday, January 8	Genesis 25-26
Friday, January 9	Genesis 27-29
Saturday, January 10	Genesis 30-31

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"New Year, Same God"

As we step into a brand-new year, many things around us will change. Calendars flip, routines shift, goals are set, and life begins to move at a fresh pace. But before we rush ahead, it's worth pausing to remember one unshakable truth: the God who walked with us yesterday is the same God who goes before us today.

Scripture reminds us, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). This means His character doesn't shift with the seasons. His promises didn't expire on December 31st. His faithfulness doesn't weaken with time. The God who carried you through every valley of the past year is the same God who will guide you through every unknown of the year ahead.

In a world that constantly changes, we need an anchor. We need a foundation that doesn't move. And we have one. New year, same God. So as you make plans, set goals, and dream about what this year could hold, do it with confidence—not in yourself, but in the One who never changes. Let this be a year marked not just by resolutions, but by renewed trust. Not just by new beginnings, but by deeper dependence on the God who has never failed His people.

In the midst of new beginnings and shifting seasons, it's comforting to know that God's love and presence remain constant. While we might face unexpected twists and turns, His guidance and strength are available to us each day. Trust that His wisdom will light your path, even when the future feels uncertain.

Therefore, as you embark on this journey into a new chapter, remember that the challenges and changes ahead do not surprise Him. He has already gone before you, preparing the way and providing what you need for each step. No matter what uncertainties the coming months may hold, you can rest assured that His presence and promises are as constant as ever. May this new year draw you closer to Him, shape you more into His image, and remind you daily that while everything around us may shift, our God remains steadfast, faithful, and true.

This truth brings comfort and courage as we face the unknowns of a new year. When changes around us seem overwhelming, we can draw strength from knowing that God's presence is unwavering. He remains our steady refuge, offering peace that surpasses understanding even in seasons of transition.

As we begin to move foreward into 2026, it's okay to briefly look back and recall the ways God has shown His faithfulness through both joys and trials. Reflecting on these moments can strengthen our trust and encourage us to rely on Him even more in the days ahead. Remember, the same God who provided, comforted, and guided before will continue to do so now and in every season to come. May you blessed as you trust the One walking with you.