Sermon Notes

The Messenger

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

The Lord's Day, March 8, 2026

Order of Worship

Greeting: Dan Strope
Scripture Reading: Keith Huesman (Colossians 3:16-17)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Randy Sowder
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Glory)
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

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
Church Text:	(317) 953-5095
Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
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

We were saddened to learn that our sister, **Virginia Short,** passed away a couple of weeks ago. She has since been taken to Tennessee, where she has already been laid to rest. **Jimmy Bush**, Kathy Feldmeier's son, is in ICU and has been intubated and placed on a ventilator at IU Hospital. **Eric Chamberlain**, Logan's dad, has started infusion therapy and is exploring clinical trial options for his spreading cancer. **Karen DeFord** continues to recuperate following hip replacement surgery and is doing very well. **Susan Hembree**, Della's sister-in-law, underwent a series of medical tests. The results have been forwarded to Mayo Clinic for further evaluation. **Sharon Lasiter** remains in hospice care at Rosegate in room 510. **Tana Kay Marriott** responded to the invitation last Sunday, sharing that she is weary of trying to handle things alone and is rededicating her life to God. **GayLee Sutton** responded as well saying she feels the need to be here and be more involved.

Long Term Concerns

Suzanne Bielski (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, has cancer and is undergoing chemo), **Gavin Brooks** (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Drew Burton's grandmother**, melanoma and is doing immunotherapy. **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, chemotherapy for bone cancer), **John & Debbie Collins** (Hewitt's uncle & aunt, John has stage 4 prostate & stomach cancer; Debbie is recovering from a broken tibia at the hip), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Missy Downs** (Sonya Hewitt's cousin, stage 3 kidney disease), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **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** (Rosegate Nursing Center, Rm#510, hospice), **Lynn** (Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law's aunt, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Bruce Roberts** (Lyndsay Trostle's uncle, colon cancer - hospice), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, chemo), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Charles Speer** (friend of Ronnie & Angie, blood cancer and is receiving infusion treatments), **Benny Stephens** (oxygen), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **Barb Surber** (Compass Park, Rm 1304), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's), **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's)

Announcements

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

9th Johnny Stanton

Love Feast Fellowship Potluck

Today is our family potluck fellowship. Everyone is invited and encouraged to stay and share a meal and a wonderful time of fellowship.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

We began a new study this morning in the adult class focused on deepening our spiritual relationship with the Lord and with one another. We encourage you to be a part of this class as we seek to know our Lord better and what it is He wants for us.

Our Sunday PM Bible Study

Today only, our normal 5PM Bible study will be held immediately following our potluck fellowship. Dan Strope will be leading our discussion.

Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

Our next brunch for the women will be Saturday, March 14th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

VBS Meeting

On Sunday, March 15th, following morning worship, Eric would like to have an organizational meeting concerning VBS for this year. If you are willing to help in any way, please plan to stay for the meeting.

Men's Prayer Request

The next prayer breakfast will be Saturday, March 28th at 9am in the fellowship hall.

Schults-Lewis Commodity Drive

This year we are collecting the following items: Club, Oyster, and Cheez-it Crackers, Twin Bedsheet sets and Washcloth & Towel sets, along with your change cans. Pick-up will be during the week of May 3rd.

Cleaning Crew – March 8-14 (Team 4)

Finance Record for 2026

Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $4,373.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (21); Worship (73); PM Bible Study (8)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, March 8	Deuteronomy 28-29
Monday, March 9	Deuteronomy 30-31
Tuesday, March 10	Deuteronomy 32-34
Wednesday, March 11	Joshua 1-4
Thursday, March 12	Joshua 5-8
Friday, March 13	Joshua 9-11
Saturday, March 14	Joshua 12-15

Faith Applied Daily:
Sin vs. God – Who Is to Blame?

Every generation has perfected the art of blaming someone else. Children blame siblings. Employees blame coworkers. Drivers blame the person in front of them. And humanity—ever since Eden—has tried to blame God.

When life gets hard, when temptation becomes overwhelming, when consequences come, we instinctively ask, "God, why did You let this happen?" Or worse, "God, why did You make me this way?" But Scripture cuts through the fog with great clarity: Sin is real. God is holy. And, the blame never belongs to Him. Today we wrestle with a question as old as humanity: "Sin vs. God – Who Is to Blame?"

Sin is the result of human choice, not divine design. James 1:13–14 teaches that God does not tempt anyone. Temptation arises from our own desires. The origin of sin is human, not divine. Romans 5:12 says, "*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.*" (NIV) God created humanity with free will, because love without choice is not love. Sin is not a defect in God's creation; it is a rebellion in the human heart.

When confronted with his sin in Genesis 3, Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. And indirectly, Adam blamed God: "*The woman You gave me…*" Humanity has been pointing outward and upward ever since. However, God Is NOT the Author of Sin. He is light; in Him is no darkness at all. He is holy, righteous, and pure. If sin had its origin in God, He would cease to be God. We need to understand that sin is not a crack in the foundation God laid, but a crack we created by stepping outside His design.

Equally as important is for us to understand that temptation is not sin, but it does expose what is in us. James 1:14 says we are "*dragged away (or entised) by our own desires.*" Temptation merely reveals what lies within us, it does not force us to act upon it. Temptation is like a magnet, it only pulls what is already metal. The enemy can present the bait, but he cannot force you to bite. God does, however, allow testing, not to destroy us, but to develop us. God tested Abraham, not to make him fall, but to make him faithful. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, not to weaken Him, but to reveal His strength. God tests to strengthen. Satan tempts to destroy. We choose which voice we follow.

The real battle is internal. We often blame the devil, our upbringing, our circumstances, our stress, our genetics, and even our past. But Scripture says the real culprit is desire, the unsubmitted parts of our heart. As Christians, we need to see God is the solution to sin, not the source of it. James 1:17 declares that "*every good and perfect gift comes from above*." God gives deliverance, not destruction. He doesn't push us into sin, He pulls us out of it. He doesn't trap us, He provides a way of escape (1Cor 10:13). God's character is consistent. James goes on to say that He "*does not change like shifting shadows*." People shift. Culture shifts. Emotions shift. Temptations shift. But God remains holy, faithful, and good.

God's response to sin was not blame, it was a Savior. Instead of pointing a finger at humanity, He stretched out His hands on a cross. Instead of condemning the world, He came to save it. Instead of blaming us, He bore our blame. The cross is the ultimate proof that God is not the cause of sin, but the cure for it.