Sermon: What Does It Take to Obey

1Samuel 15:22; Luke 6:46; John 14:15; 1John 5:3; James 1:22; Psalm 119:105; Heb 11:8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Acts 5:29; Philippians 2:13; John 15:5; Matthew 7:24–27; Ephesians 2:8-10

The Messenger

Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ

Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, Sunday, July 19, 2026

Order of Worship

Call to Worship: Rodney Dowell
Scripture Reading: Heath Reeves (1Samuel 15:22)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rex DeFord
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt (What Does It Take to Obey)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

Bible Hour During Sermon

Nursery: Hanna Redden (Sub: Rhonda Denzio)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade: Renie Nalley

Schedule of Services

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

Connect with Us

Church Office (317) 535-1627 Prayer Text Line:(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

Recent Prayer Requests

Richard Burris has a slipped vertebrae that is pressing on nerves in his back. This condition has caused him to fall several times recently. He is being referred to a surgeon for consultation.
Angie Hammitt (friend of the Wiwczaroski family) has been diagnosed with colon cancer, and it appears the illness may have spread to their liver. She and her family would greatly appreciate our prayers and support as they navigate this challenging time.
Nancy Havens has been moved to the Greenwood Health and Living Center on Fry Road, west of US 31.
Flora Littleton had a couple of seizures that left her extremely weak. She was feeling some better on Friday.
Nova Pearson (Inez's 4-yr old great-granddaughter) is doing well after having complications following ostomy removal and pseudomonas kidney infection.
Rose Pearson (Inez's granddaughter, Nova's mom) had emergency gall-bladder surgery and is now home and doing well.

Long Term Concerns

Rhonda Aliff (Pat Stinson's daughter, lupus), **Kathy Ashley** (Rachel's mom, scheduled for hip replacement surgery on August 4), **Suzanne Bielski** (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, chemo treatments for cancer), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, infusion therapy for bone cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, recovering from treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma), **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** (Hagan's friend, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Nancy Havens** (former member, severe weakness and memory issues); **Rex & Susan Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues; sister-in-law, severe abdomen issues), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Lillian Kelley** (mother of George's friend, Chelsea, hospice), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Lynn** (Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law's aunt, cancer in breast, spine, & brain), **Amanda Magner** (former member, bone cancer, recovering from surgery), **Clayton Marriott** (lost his way spiritually), **Pat Martin** (Amy's dad, Alzheimer's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Norma Nelson** (Della's friend, heart & lungs), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, will be starting radiation treatments soon), **Barb Surber** (Dementia; Compass Park, Rm 1304), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (lupus & kidney disease), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Ayden** (Wanda Weaver's 14yr old neighbor, chemo treatments for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma)

Cleaning Crew – 19th-25th
(Team 2)

Finance Record for 2026
Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $2,684.00

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: AM Bible Study (23); Worship (72); PM Bible Study (VBS)
Wednesday Bible Study (VBS)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, July 19	Proverbs 19-21
Monday, July 20	Proverbs 22-23
Tuesday, July 21	Proverbs 24-26
Wednesday, July 22	Proverbs 27-29
Thursday, July 23	Proverbs 30-31
Friday, July 24	Ecclesiastes 1-4
Saturday, July 25	Ecclesiastes 5-8

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
20th Debby Huesman
23rd Martin Julian, Edie Short, Cindy Strope
25th Blanche Taylor

Anniversary
20th David & Janice Kent (58yrs)

Announcements

Vacation Bible School: Thank you to everyone who donated, helped organize, decorate, teach, participated throughout the week, and tear down. We could not have done this without you. You have helped plant seeds for the Lord this week. Let us continue to pray for this effort, and that the Lord will bring about a harvest in the lives of those touched.

Bible Hour Teacher's Meeting today. We would like to meet with all our teaching volunteers that help with the Bible Hour for all age groups immediately following worship this morning. We will be discussing our August 2nd class promotion day, as well as opportunities we have moving forward.

The next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be Saturday, June 25th at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. The Elders and Ronnie will be starting a discussion on a theme that will run for several months: "The Man You're Meant to Be / A Call of Self-Examination for Every Believer."

Ladies Inspiration Day: The Metro Church of Christ extend an invitation for our women to join them for their Ladies Day, planned for Saturday, August 8th. The speaker will be Laura Hubbard, from the Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ. She will be speaking on the theme: "Bloom Where God Plants You!" There is an advertisement posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

FAD FAITH APPLIED DAILY www.facebook.com/faithappliedddaily

"The Goal of Discipleship"

At its core, discipleship is not a program, a class, or a phase of Christian life—it is the lifelong identity of every believer. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," He wasn't inviting people to admire Him from a distance. He was calling them into a transforming relationship that reshapes the heart, the mind, and the daily walk. Mark 11:22–24 reminds us that discipleship is rooted in faith – a real, active, mountain-moving trust in the power and presence of God. But Scripture also shows us that discipleship has clear goals, God-given aims that shape who we are becoming in Christ.

The first goal of discipleship is Christlikeness. Jesus said, "*A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher*" (Luke 6:40). To follow Jesus is to grow into His character: His compassion, His purity, His humility, His courage, and His obedience. Discipleship is not merely learning about Jesus; it is learning to live like Jesus.

Mark 11:22–24 calls disciples to a faith that does more than believe—it acts, asks, and expects God to work. "Have faith in God." Christian discipleship aims to cultivate a heart that leans fully on God, especially when the path is steep or the mountain seems immovable. Faith is not wishful thinking; it is confident dependence on the Father who keeps His promises.

A disciple is someone who hears Jesus and does what He says. Obedience is not legalism—it is love expressed through action. Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" (John 14:15) The goal is not occasional obedience, but a lifestyle shaped by the teachings of Christ. Discipleship trains us to choose His will over our own, trusting that His way is always life-giving.

Jesus taught that true discipleship produces visible results: transformed attitudes, holy living, acts of compassion, words that build up, and influence that draws others to Christ. John 15:8 reminds us, "*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*" Therefore, what we discover is that spiritual fruit is not optional; it is the evidence that Christ is alive in us.

A disciple is someone who keeps following Jesus—through joy, sorrow, trial, temptation, and change. Jesus said, "*He who endures to the end shall be saved*." (Matthew 24:13) The goal is steadfastness: a faith that remains anchored in Christ no matter the storm.

Discipleship is not about perfection; it is about direction. It is the daily, intentional pursuit of Jesus: trusting Him, obeying Him, becoming like Him, bearing fruit for Him, and helping others walk with Him.

...Ronnie Hewitt