Sermon: “Salvation Not for Sale”

The Messenger

Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ

Loving God / Loving People

The Lord’s Day, Sunday, September 20, 2026

Order of Worship

Call to Worship: Dan Strope
Scripture Reading: Heath Reeves (Acts 8:9-13)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rick Lowe
Sermon: Isaiah Echols (Salvation Not for Sale)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

Bible Hour During Sermon

Nursery: Megan Johnson (Sub: Cindie Cottingham)
Toddler: Lavana Tichenor
4yr old-Pre-K: Edie Short
K-3rd Grade: Rachel Hewitt

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

Karen DeFord will be having surgery on September 25th.
Isaiah Echols will be having a biopsy on September 23rd. His latest MRI showed an additional lesion that they want to evaluate.
Moe Handy will be having knee replacement surgery at Community South on September 28th.
Ronnie Hewitt will be having an echocardiogram stress test on September 24th.
Flora Littleton is having a 3-day EEG at Riley beginning September 21st.

Long Term Concerns

Rhonda Aliff (Pat Stinson's daughter, lupus), **Suzanne Bielski** (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, chemo treatments for cancer), **Richard Burris** (recovering from neck and discs repair surgery), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, infusion therapy for bone cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, 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), **Angie Hammitt** (Wiwczaroski's friend, colon & liver cancer, aggressive chemo treatments), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **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), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Mary Leachman** (sun poisoning), **Flora Littleton** (seizures), **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, radiation treatments), **Belle Magill-Shirley** (Wanda's mom, recovering from a mini-stroke), **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, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), **Jim Yager** (Hewitt's uncle, recovering from spinal fusion)

Cleaning Crew – 20th—26th
(Team 1)

Finance Record for 2026
Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $2,548.00

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: AM Bible Study (15); Worship (60); PM Bible Study (12)
Wednesday Bible Study (15)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, September 20	Hosea 8-14
Monday, September 21	Joel 1-3
Tuesday, September 22	Amos 1-5
Wednesday, September 23	Amos 6-9
Thursday, September 24	Obadiah & Jonah
Friday, September 25	Micah 1-7
Saturday, September 26	Nahum 1-3

Celebrations This Week
Birthday
20th Neil Buttram, Amanda Trostle
23rd Cindie Cottingham
24th Rodney Dowell, Hannah Hewitt

Anniversary
24th Randy & Gina Sowder (22yrs)

Announcements

Men's Prayer Breakfast is September 26th. All our men are encouraged to join us for a meal, devotional, fellowship, and prayer.

Renewing Vows: Everyone is invited to join Eric and Lyndsay Trostle as they renew their marriage vows on Saturday, October 3, at 3:30 p.m. here at the building.

Gospel Meeting: The Eagle Valley Church of Christ is hosting their Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 4th – Thursday, October 8th, with guest speaker: Rick Leach from the Central Church of Christ in Bedford.

Youth Fall Weenie Roast will be Friday, October 16th at the home of John & Rhonda Denzio. There is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board in the foyer. For more info, please see Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski.

Women Under Construction: The Morgan Street Church of Christ is inviting our ladies to join them for their Ladies' Day on Saturday, October 17th, from 10am—1pm. There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

www.facebook.com/faithappliedddaily

"Pursuing God"

At the heart of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount sits a simple, commanding invitation: "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*" (Matthew 6:33). It is one of those verses we know well, yet it continually calls us deeper. Pursuing God is not a one-time decision—it is a daily re-orientation of the heart.

Jesus speaks these words in the middle of a conversation about worry. He knows how easily our minds become tangled in the concerns of life—needs, responsibilities, uncertainties. Yet He doesn't dismiss those concerns; He simply places them in their proper order. When God's kingdom becomes our first pursuit, everything else finds its rightful place. To "seek first" means to aim our lives toward God with intentionality. It's about choosing His will over our own, His righteousness over our comfort, His purposes over our preferences. It is not about perfection—it is about direction.

Pursuing God also means pursuing His righteousness. This is not self-made goodness or moral achievement. It is the righteousness that comes from walking with Christ, learning His ways, and allowing His Spirit to shape our character. As we seek Him, He transforms us—our desires, our habits, our relationships, and our priorities.

Jesus attaches a promise to this pursuit: "*all these things shall be added to you*." God knows what we need. He is not indifferent to our daily concerns. When we place Him first, we discover that He is faithful to provide, not always in the way we expect, but always in the way we need.

Understand, pursuing God is lived out in small, steady steps. Whether it is us opening Scripture with expectation, praying with open-handed honesty, serving with humility, worshiping with gratitude, or obeying with complete trust in His provision. These practices don't earn God's favor, but they do help us stay aligned with the One who already loves us fully.

As a church family, may we encourage one another to keep God first. In our homes, our work, our conversations, and our decisions, may we be people who pursue the kingdom above all else. When we do, we will find that God is already ahead of us, providing, guiding, and sustaining. May our hearts be set on the One who is worthy of being first.

....Ronnie Hewitt