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Lilbourn Church of Christ
P.O. Box 270
Lilbourn, MO 63862

Address Service Requested



Times of Assembly:

Sunday:

Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class	7:30pm
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'Lilbourn Light' is published monthly by the Lilbourn Church of Christ. It is mailed free upon request. Send all correspondence or address changes to the address above.



Website:

Our website can be found at:
<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

Did you know?:

- ♦ Many of the past issues of 'The Lilbourn Light' are available on our website.
- ♦ Sermons from our last three gospel meetings are on the Audio page of our website.

Would you be interested in a **'FREE' Bible Study** through the mail? If so, please send your name and address to the address on the left. You can also send me an e-mail with your information to:
shanewms@sheltonbbs.com
There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!

The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -Psalm 119:105



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Shine as Lights

It's easy to see that we live *"in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation"* (Phil. 2:15). We are frequently reminded that we live in a sinful world by observing daily life, by headlines on television or in the newspaper, and by a society that is growing more accustomed to immorality, greed, and corruption.

Against a setting of darkness, followers of Jesus are told to be *"lights in the world"* (Phil. 2:15). Yet our conduct often reflects a dim and hazy image of Him. That's why Paul warned us: *"Do all things without complaining and disputing"* (Phil 2:14). He urges us to put salvation to work. **Phil 2:12-13**, *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in*

you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

We may wonder why the apostle didn't mention sins considered more outrageous than complaining. Instead of talking of sins many would say are "really bad" he speaks of offenses that virtually everyone has been guilty of: pride, arrogance, and selfishness, erupts into murmuring and quarreling. Yet these *"lesser"* sins can be just as destructive.

Paul knew that we need to be spiritually alert to evil and get rid of it. By heeding these exhortations we will *"become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault"* (v.15). Then we will be sure to shine as lights in this dark world. Is your light shining?

— Shane Williams

Waiting

I don't know of many people who like to be kept waiting. We don't like it when our time is wasted waiting on something or on someone else. But what about with waiting on God? Do our prayers seem to go unanswered? Do our problems seem to not be important to Him? Why does He sometimes make us wait?

In Isaiah 30:18 the Lord tells His people that He is going to wait before He is gracious to them. The verses leading up to this explain 'why.'

In verse 15 the Lord reminded Israel that if she had returned to Him for rest, she would have been saved from her enemies. If she had been quiet and confident, she would have found sufficient strength. *"But you would not,"* the Lord lamented, *"and you said, 'No...'"* (vs.15-16). Instead of returning to the Lord, Israel would flee from her enemies (v.17). *"Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you"* (vs. 18).

God was waiting for Israel to fail in her self-sufficient ways and to start depending on Him.

What was God waiting for? Israel was relying on herself and her understanding to get through the troubles. God was waiting for Israel to fail in her self-sufficient ways and to start depending on Him. Only then would He be gracious to her.

God allows us to use our own wisdom and our own strength. We have the ability to make our own choices. He also allows us to fail. Only when we rely upon Him will we find true blessing and rest. Only in Him can we find salvation through Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 30:18, "Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him."

— Shane Williams

Down but Not Out

Who isn't inspired by a competitor who makes a comeback after being down and apparently out of the running? Perhaps it is some ball player plagued with injuries that finally gets healthy again or maybe a player past his prime who is able to put it all back together once again.

The same kind of inspiration motivates the Christian who draws courage from the example of his Lord and Savior. No one was ever more humiliated than Jesus before He made a comeback. He was insulted, spit upon, whipped, beaten, and nailed to a cross. His executioners confirmed their success and declared Him dead. Even a military guard secured His tomb. **How could anyone be more down and out than that?**

However, that was not His end! Three days later, Jesus rose from the tomb and reappeared to many of His disciples. He was the one who was victorious in His struggle over death, over sin, and over Satan.

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Hebrews 12:2-3, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart."

Perhaps you feel out of the running today. Maybe you've stumbled badly. Then look at Jesus' suffering and at His resurrection. Just imagine what He has to offer you, no matter how far down you are now! *"but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (I Cor. 15:57).

— Shane Williams

God's Plan for Saving Man

- ⇒ **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
- ⇒ **Believe** the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6; John 20:31)
- ⇒ **Repent** of Past Sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- ⇒ **Confess Faith** in Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32)
- ⇒ **Be Baptized** in water (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ **Live Faithful** (Heb. 10:35-39)