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

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**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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**Website:**

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*(continued from front page)*

Spiritual age does not have the same effect as physical age. Instead of slowing down as we walk longer with God, we should be enjoying a little more spring in our step. The longer we have fellowship with Him, the better off we should be. We may be getting older on the outside but we can be "older and improved" inwardly.

We should be growing spiritually. The difficulties we bear are helping us store up heavenly glory, not weighing us down. It is true— if you're walking with Christ, you're not just getting older, you're getting better.

*"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1*

— Shane Williams

# The Lilbourn Light



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



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## Older and Improved?

We've all heard the television commercials that tell us about a product that's "new and improved." This is in contrast to an older and therefore inferior product. At least that is what they are hoping will cause you to buy the "new" item. No matter how hard you and I try, none of us can hold back the natural process of aging. We can exercise, eat right, take vitamins, put on moisturizing lotions, but guess what ... we still get older. That indisputable truth is found in **II Corinthians 4:16**, where Paul says, "Our outward man is per-

*ishing."*

As bad as that sounds, though, there is good news in all of this. At the same time our bodies rush with determination toward destruction, we can enjoy a youthful strength in our walk with God. Through the constant renewal of our "inward man" (vs. 16), we grow more and more prepared to be with God.

*"Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."*

*(continued on back page)*

## An honorable name

We are inclined to skip some chapters, when we read through the Bible. We usually don't care to read through genealogies because they're just lists of names. This includes Genesis 10 and most of 11, Matthew 1, & the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles, to name a few. However here and there we can find interesting nuggets of information. The two verses about Jabez are a good example of this (4:9-10).

The writer paused to tell us that this man was *"more honorable than his brothers"* (vs. 9). Why was he so honorable? We aren't told specifically but there are some clues in the short prayer he expressed.

The name Jabez means *"he causes pain."* Can you imagine having a name like that? His mother gave him the name because she "bore him with pain" vs. 9 says.

**No matter what your name is or what its meaning, you too can be a person of honor.**

Instead of being bitter, or using his name as an excuse, Jabez turned to the Lord. He asked God to bless his life.

**1 Chron 4:10, "And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested."**

Jabez was honorable because he pleaded with the Lord to help him live righteously so he would not cause others to suffer.

No matter what your name is or what its meaning is, you too can be a person of honor. You can be a blessing to those around you. Ask God to help you and do those things to bring glory and honor to His name.

— Shane Williams

## Yesterday and Tomorrow

When we consider what God has done for us in the past, we can move into the future with confidence. We see this with the people of Israel as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land.

In Genesis 50, we read that as Joseph was dying, he made his brothers promise that they would carry his bones to the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (50:24-26). Many years passed but when the time came Moses took the bones of Joseph as the Israelites left Egypt (Ex. 13:19).

For the next 40 years the people carried the ark with the stone tablets of the law inside. They also would have been carrying with them the bones of Joseph. The ark and the bones would have been reminders that the God who was leading them forward had been at work in their past. Assurance and hope were both carried.

It wasn't actually until the very end of the book of Joshua (24:32) that they bury Joseph's bones in the Promised Land.

We as God's people today can have this same outlook when we gather to-

gether to worship. We think and talk about what God has done. We also look at what God has promised for the future. This is clearly seen in our partaking of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. We remember with assurance that Jesus died for us (1

**We think and talk about what God has done. We also look at what God has promised for the future.**

Cor. 11:23-25). *"Do this in remembrance of Me."* We also look forward with confidence to His return. **1 Cor. 11:26, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."**

This hope encourages us as we live each day for Him. Are you living for the Lord?

— 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; 1 Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ Live Faithful (Heb. 10:35-39)