

(Continued from Front Page)

*because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?" So the priests answered and said, "It shall be unclean."*

Haggai told the people of Israel, who assumed they were holy because of their godly heritage, that they actually had become defiled because of their disobedience (vs. 14).

**Haggai 2:14**, *"So is this people, and so is this nation before Me," says the LORD, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.'*

If you want to be godly, you must decide that you're going to follow God. You must learn what God wants and obey Him. Having devout parents and associating with religious friends will certainly help, but they cannot make you godly.

We become godly only as we live close to the Lord and do what He tells us to do.

— Shane Williams

Non-Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #2  
Kewanee, MO

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
-------------	--------

**Website:**

[www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/)

**Preacher and Editor:**

**Shane Williams**

**Office: 573-688-2234**

**Home: 573-748-5204**

**[shanewms@sheltonbbs.com](mailto:shanewms@sheltonbbs.com)**

'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.

# The Lilbourn Light



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



Volume 7

December, 2006

Number 8

## Godliness Isn't Contagious

Evil is like an infectious disease. One person with a contagious illness can pass it on to many others just by being in close proximity to them. In the same way, evil seems to spread among a group.

Godliness, on the other hand, must be deliberately sought after. We do not become godly by only associating with religious people in a secluded environment. You will not "catch it" by simply being in the same room as a righteous person. Godly people are a great example for everyone; however, godliness comes through faith and obedience to the Lord.

That is the point Haggai made centuries ago. He spoke about meat that had been set apart for sacrifice to God. If that meat touched some other food, it would not make the other food holy (2:12). On the other hand, uncleanness could easily be transmitted by a simple touch (vs.13).

**Haggai 2:12-13**, *"If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?"* "Then the priests answered and said, "No." **13** *And Haggai said, "If one who is unclean*

(Continued on Back Page)

## The Highest Goal

What are you living for in your few years here on this earth? Wealth, influence or fame?

One business management instructor asked his students to draft a personal strategic plan. He reported that *"with few exceptions, what they wanted fell into three categories: money, power, and things."*

That's not exactly a lofty goal! No thought of service to others and no thought of spiritual values! Yet, should we really be surprised? What those students wanted was what most people seek after today.

The Apostle Paul's ambition was completely different.

**Philippians 3:7-8**, *"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for*

*whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,"*

His intense desire was to know Jesus and become increasingly conformed to His holy example (Phil. 3:10).

**Philippians 3:10**, *"that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;"*

What is our highest goal? Do we just want to make a bunch of money, which can never buy lasting happiness? Or do we want to become more like Jesus? A wise person will set his goals on heavenly things.

*"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* **II Peter 3:18**

— Shane Williams



**A wise person will set his goals on heavenly things.**

## How To Be Free

Mankind longs to be free. For a lot of people that means they desire to be able to do whatever they want. However for many, its pursuit actually leads to greater oppression.

A bird is free in the air but put that bird in the water and he has lost his freedom. A fish is free in the water but leave him on the shore and he will die. The Christian is free when he does the will of God and is obedient to God's commands. This is as natural a realm for a child of God as the water is for the fish or the air for the bird.

Although Solomon didn't use the word freedom in Proverbs 16, he understood that it comes only within the bounds of honoring God and His Word. In contrast, bondage comes to those who ignore God's truth.

Liberty results from practicing humility, trusting in the Lord, being careful with our speech, and having self-control (vss. 19-24).

Bondage enslaves those who are governed by rebellion, pride, arrogance, strife, slander, violence and

evil doing (vss. 18, 27-30).

Do you want to be free? Jesus said, *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (Jn. 8:31-32). Jesus is the ultimate source of true freedom.

True freedom lies not in having your own way but in yielding to God's way.

— Shane Williams



**The Christian is free when he does the will of God and is obedient to His commands.**

## 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)
- ⇒ **Be Faithful** until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)