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Lilbourn Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 270  
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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:

[www.Lilbourncofc.com](http://www.Lilbourncofc.com)

#### Preacher and Editor:

**Shane Williams**

**Office: 573-688-2234**

**Home: 573-748-5204**

**[shanews@sheltonbbs.com](mailto:shanews@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.



#### Website:

We have a new website that can be found at:

<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

#### E-mail Bulletin:

We are working on putting out an e-mail edition of our bulletin each month. If you are interested in receiving our bulletin via e-mail instead of through USPS, **please contact us.** You can also send us e-mail addresses of those whom you think will like to receive it.

<p>Would you be interested in a <b>'FREE' Bible Study</b> 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:</p> <p><b><a href="mailto:shanews@sheltonbbs.com">shanews@sheltonbbs.com</a></b></p> <p>There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!</p>
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# The Lilbourn Light



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



Volume 8

December, 2007

Number 8

## What will you do next?

The night before Jesus was crucified, two of His disciples turned against Him: Judas betrayed Christ, leading His enemies to Him in the Garden (Lk. 22:47-48) and Peter denied three times that he even knew the Lord (vs. 57-60).

Yet the difference in what they did next was enormous. Peter wept bitter tears of repentance and later was gently restored (vs .62; Jn. 21:15-17); Judas *"threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself"* (Mt. 27:5).

We are going to have shortcomings but when we sin, the most important thing is what we do next. If we lose our temper and say something cruel to a family member, what do we do next? If

we mistreat a friend, what do we do next? If we find ourselves dwelling on evil thoughts, what do we do next? To make excuses justifying our behavior, to blame another person, or to ignore God only adds more sin to the first.

Perhaps there is some sin in your life. If so, you're faced with a choice. If you are a Christian, repent and confess it to God (1 Jn. 1:9). If you are not, the only way to receive forgiveness is through Christ (Acts 2:36-38; 22:16). Denying that you have no need for Christ in your life is not a wise choice.

When you sin, don't make it worse with another sin. Take it immediately to the Lord and follow Him. The most important thing is what you do next!

— Shane Williams

## Knowing what you believe

Have you ever found it frustrating to talk to some people about what they believe? It is sometimes hard for people to express their beliefs because they are confused about what they have been taught.

A woman who had been a staunch church member for years was asked, "Tell me, just what do you believe?" She replied, "I believe what my church believes."

"But what does your church believe?" came the question. "My church believes what I believe."

The inquirer then asked, "Since you believe what your church believes, and your church believes what you believe, what do you and your church believe?" She quickly answered, "We both believe the same thing."

Humorous, yet terribly sad but we can relate to running into some people who have that sort of "knowledge" and understanding of what they believe.

The Jews who came back from exile to resettle Jerusalem and Israel likewise knew little about their faith. But when Ezra read from the book of the Law, and the text was explained, the people listened for hours. The Word of God

brought a powerful conviction of sin. The Israelites began to weep but they were told not to shed tears. This was a day for celebration!

**Neh 8:12**, "And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them."

**It's not enough to only believe what someone tells you. Our faith must be our own.**

A vague faith will never fill us with joy. We must clearly hear God's truth so that it can change our hearts. As we gain knowledge of His Word and obey it, we will experience the joy of the Lord (v.10).

**Neh 8:10**, "Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

It's not enough to only believe what someone tells you. Our faith must be our own. **Eph 5:17**, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

We urge you; don't rely on man's wisdom but on God's. Put your confidence in Him. If your life is not in harmony with His will, we encourage you to change your direction.

— Shane Williams

## Great Wall

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (**Prov. 14:34**). These words could be engraved on the tombstone of many civilizations. Oftentimes we think it is weapons or a strong economy that makes a powerful nation, yet God said that nations are built on the character of their people.

The people of ancient China sought security from the barbarian hordes that came down from the north, so they erected the Great Wall of China. This huge wall stretched for more than 1,500 miles. It was 12 to 40 feet wide and 20 to 50 feet high. The Chinese Government thought the wall would be too high for the enemy to climb, too thick to tear down, and too long to go around.

We might think that such a structure would stop any sort of enemy from coming in. Yet during the wall's existence, China was invaded at least 2 times. How was the security breached? The enemies simply bribed a gatekeeper and then marched easily through a gate. The

**...God said that nations are built on the character of their people.**

fatal flaw in China's defense lay in spending its wealth to build a wall but paying much less attention in building the character of the gatekeepers.

A superior defense system won't ultimately protect our nation but we each can contribute to her security by being "blameless and harmless . . . without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" (**Phil. 2:15**).

Let us desire to be righteous in God's sight and do our part to uphold godliness in our society.

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