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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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**John 5:41**, *"I do not receive honor from men. <sup>42</sup> But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you."*

**John 5:44**, *"How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"*

How much does the crowd, which includes your family, friends, and co-workers, influence you and your reaction to Jesus? Are you so interested in their approval that you fail to follow the only One who can save you from your sins? If so, consider the risk you take. Follow Jesus without hesitation.

*"And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16).*

— 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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## Follow the Crowd

A crowd can exercise great control over people. Many celebrities, movie stars, athletes, etc., like their roles because of the masses of people that seem to hang on their every word. Many of these people can't go anywhere or do anything without constantly being followed around by fans and media. There is the rare exception but most of them love that attention and the power of that kind of influence.

Many religious leaders of Jesus' day loved the approval of the crowd. Even some who be-

lieved in Jesus wouldn't say so because they *"loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God"* (John 12:42-43). Many were outwardly religious and pretended to have the truth but they rejected the Savior. They paraded around claiming to be righteous and yet refused to believe in Jesus, not even giving Him a consideration. They faced eternal condemnation because they were more concerned with receiving honor from one another than from God (John 5:41, 44).

*(continued on back page)*

## Honor to His Name

Companies that compete with others for customer dollars know the significance of protecting their name and reputation. Poor quality or rude service can cause profits to plunge.

We've probably all been somewhere, where we've seen this happen: Long lines, discourteous staff, a lack of help or a bad product. The result is frustration, anger, a desire never to go back to that place or buy that product, and a need to tell others what your experience has been.

This reminds me of how Israel's conduct brought dishonor to God's name. Because they had lived like their pagan neighbors, the Lord dispersed them among the nations. The world around laughed at both Israel and the name of her God.

**Ezek. 36:16-17**, *"Again the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>17</sup> 'Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions.'"*

***"wherever they went among the nations they profaned My holy name."***

**Ezek. 36:19-21**, "I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. <sup>20</sup> And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the LORD's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' <sup>21</sup> I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone."

Let's consider an application that relates to you and I. As Christians, we bear the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. What does the world think of Him by what they see in us? Bringing honor to the Lord is more important than any business or product living up to its name. We have quite a responsibility in our lives—to reflect our Lord. We must stand against doing anything that will cause others to profane His holy name.

How is your life today?

— Shane Williams

## Modern Day Idolatry

When we hear the word *idol*, we usually think of a sculpture of a person or animal that is the focal point of worship. For example, we might think of the golden calf the Israelites made soon after they left Egypt (Ex. 32:1-6). We know that God does not tolerate such images, yet is it possible to practice idolatry without a statue?

I read a story about a woman who kept her car in perfect condition. She took great pride in the fact that it was flawless. One night her garage caught on fire, and her neighbors had to hold her back from rushing into the flames to rescue her car. She had spent a big portion of her life completely devoted to that car. She sacrificed much of her life, in many ways, for the sake of the car. It had become her idol.

That may seem like an extreme example; however, if anything other than God becomes our primary focus in this life, it IS an idol.

In **Colossians 3:5**, Paul identified covetousness or greed as a type of idolatry.

*"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."*

He urges us to say 'no' to these covetous ways that are part of our old self, and to say 'yes' to our new self, which is created to live like Christ (vs. 9-10).

**Col. 3:9-10**, *"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put*

*on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*

What's the main purpose of your life?

— 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)

**If anything other than God becomes our primary focus in this life, it IS an idol.**