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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	7:00pm
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His power that we can't even imagine.

That truth is echoed in **Isaiah 40:26-31**. The all-powerful Creator is the One who not only created the stars but renews the strength of those who rely on Him. The "*creator of the ends of the earth*" wants to help us with our needs. What a contrast—and what a comfort!

Regardless of how numerous your burdens or how tangled your problems, the creator has power enough to meet all your needs—and incalculable power to spare. Put your problems in His hands. He does care for us and wants us to rely on Him. **I Peter 5:7**, "*casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.*"

— 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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The Creator of the ends of the earth

Galaxies upon galaxies stretch into space farther than we can comprehend. I wonder how big the universe actually is.

It is almost humorous reading from scientists about what they think the size might be. From what I've read, the possibilities range from 500 million light years to 13.7 billion light years. Incidentally, one light year is 5.88 trillion miles. These kinds of numbers are mind-boggling. It's ridiculous to even try to think in those terms. Who can fathom that kind of distance?

Here's something even more amazing. God created all of those galaxies and sustains everything that exists by His powerful hands. Yet that same mighty God, takes a close and caring interest in the lives of men and women.

In **Psalm 147:3-4**, "*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴ He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.*" This shows a couple sides of God: The closeness to His people and the greatness of

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Marks of Experience

Nobody cares for one who is a phony. We do not appreciate someone who claims something that they are not. We see it around us sometimes in Politics, Hollywood, or even in some business practices; People who say or claim one thing, yet do something entirely different. They are not genuine in their claims.

The apostle Paul had to deal with those who were phony apostles. They wanted to be regarded as apostles, yet their actions told a different story. They sought to undermine Paul and the gospel of Christ! Paul denounced them as deceitful workers and ministers of Satan. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”*

I wonder how we would respond to such men as these, if we were in Paul's shoes. How would you have shown up these fake apostles? Probably not in the same way that

Paul did.

To establish the authenticity and authority of his own apostleship, he “boasted” not of his successes but of his sufferings: *“in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, often in danger of death”* (v.23). His list continued with instances of physical danger, mental anguish, and spiritual exhaustion that seem overwhelming

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when we consider what he endured. In contrast, these phony apostles were not willing to go through such treatment.

Gal. 6:17, *“From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”*

If your faithfulness to Christ has caused you to suffer, caused you any trouble, problems, persecutions, inconvenience, a loss of friends, family, associations, or anything negative at all,... well, that's OK. We need to be able to bear the marks of experience in being a Christian.

Remember, we are talking about the kingdom of God. It is not ribbons and stars that you are after in this life. It's not a popularity contest or recognition for your accomplishments. It's not

about trying to fit in best with the world. Rather, it's about redemption, forgiveness and a dedication to serving the Lord that sets you apart as the real thing. Many may try to act the part but the proof is in our actions.

Will you be a true follower of Jesus?

Shane Williams

Life's Countdown

If we live 65 years, we have about 600,000 hours at our disposal. Assuming we are 18 when we complete high school, we have 47 years, or nearly 412,000 hours to live after graduation.

If we spend 8 hours a day sleeping and 8 hours a day working, that only leaves 8 hours a day for everything else. That amounts to 137,333 hours in each category. When we think of the time we have to work and play in terms of hours, it doesn't seem like much. And when seen in the light of eternity, it's but a fleeting moment. How important, therefore, that we spend our waking hours wisely!

The psalmist wrote (**Psalm 90:12**), *“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”* I'm not suggesting tonight that we need to

start literally counting our days or hours that we have left. However we need to be aware of the swift passage of time and the need to live with eternity's values in view.

Eph. 5:15-16, *“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

The hours, days, and years are here and gone. So whether we count them or not, let's be sure to make them count—for the Lord. We can't afford to just spend our time; we must invest it.

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)

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