

Would you be interested in a 'FREE' Bible Study through the mail? If so, please send your name and address to the address below. You can also send me an e-mail with your information at:

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

There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!

### Thoughts Worth Pondering

In religion and politics people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing.

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive this bulletin each month? If so, write us at:

**Lilbourn Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 270**  
**Lilbourn, MO 63862**  
**573-688-2234**

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Permit #2  
Kewanee, MO

Lilbourn Church of Christ  
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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 |
|-------------|--------|

#### Website:

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

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'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 5

February, 2005

Number 11



**The Lilbourn Church of Christ**

Invites you to our



## Gospel Meeting

Speaker:

**Dick Blackford of Jonesboro, AR.**

Dates:

**February 27th - March 4th**

Meeting Times:

**Sunday: 9:45 & 10:45AM; 5:30PM**  
**Monday - Friday: 7:30PM**

# Join us as we study God's Word!

## Principles & Consequences

Nearly every day we face situations that question and test the principles we believe. We must choose between doing what pleases God and what appeals to our own selfish desires.

Officials of the Government may be tempted to accept bribes and to make dishonest decisions. Employees are sometimes asked to rearrange numbers or falsify reports. Even students face temptations such as cheating and plagiarism.

These “principle-testers” are good indicators of how committed we are to serving God. They help us to see whether we are serious about the truthfulness and reliability God expects of us. We know that choices we make will have good or bad consequences, but the real test comes when we must decide what to do.

How do we protect against making the wrong decision? It is through our faith and trusting God to take care of us as we choose to do what's right, regardless of the outcome.

In Daniel 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (friends of Daniel) found themselves in what seemed like an impossible situation. A decree was set that at the dedication of a huge golden image, which Nebuchadnezzar had made, all the people must fall down and worship the image. The consequences of not doing this were for one to be cast into a furnace of blazing fire. What a choice to have to make! Yet, the decision was obvious to them. They were NOT going to bow down to the golden image. They dared to

**The real test comes when we must decide what to do.**

disobey the king because they trusted God. They said, *“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire . . . But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O King, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up”* (Daniel 3:17-18). The King went on to get angry, heat the furnace seven times more than usual and throw them in it but God delivered them. The point remains clear, however, that the only choice to be made was whether they would follow God or not.

When we face tough choices or matters that test our faith, we too can do the right thing – and leave the

consequences with God.

— Shane Williams

## Stay On Course!

When you set out on an ocean voyage, you need to know three important facts: where you are (location), where you are going (destination), and your course to get there. By referring to a map, using a compass, and making some calculations you can end up where you want to go.

The hard part comes in determining where you are at any given moment. Bad weather and conditions (strong wind, high waves, unexpected currents and limited visibility) creates situations that can sometimes confuse sailors. We've probably all heard about someone setting sail across one of the great lakes or the ocean who relied upon their own sense of direction. They end up going in a huge circle and aren't at all where they thought they were.

How does a disciple of Christ stay on course and avoid spiritual shipwreck? Paul wrote to Timothy of the importance of fighting *“the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience”* (1 Timothy 1:18-19). We

**How does a disciple of Christ stay on course and avoid spiritual shipwreck?**

can do that by carefully reading and studying the instructions in God's inspired Word (**Ephesians 3:3-5; II Timothy 3:16-17**), praying for wisdom and understanding (**James 1:5-6; Acts 10:1-4**), and putting God's Word to practice in our lives (**Philippians 4:9; I Timothy 4:6**). This will keep us from the fate of Hymenaeus and Alexander, who *“suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith”* (vs. 19). Paul delivered them over to Satan (vs. 20).

Are you on course or in danger of shipwreck? Determine right now to live a godly life faithful to the Lord, staying on course until you are safely Home.

— 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)