

(Continued From Front Page)

Imagine the crowds in the marketplace pushing by. They move about shopping for good buys. They spend their money for food that won't nourish them (spiritually) and for drink that won't quench their thirst. Money CAN NOT buy what they really need.

God offers real nourishment, lasting joy, and forgiveness from sin— and it's all free! Most “bargain hunters” don't take Him seriously though, yet He doesn't alter His marketing strategy. How much money would you pay for salvation? Yet, it's free!

Are you spending all your energy and resources on what will never satisfy? The salvation Jesus purchased at great cost is free to anyone. Have you repented of your sins and been baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38)? It's free and will make an eternity of difference!

— Shane Williams

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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 |
|-------------|--------|

Website:

www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/

Preacher and Editor:

Shane Williams

Office: 573-688-2234

Home: 573-748-5204

shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

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The Lilbourn Light



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



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It's Free!

My first vehicle was a 1982 Chevy Scottsdale Full-Size Pickup. It had a camper shell on it that I had no use for (plus I thought it was rather ugly). I wanted to get rid of it. I ran an ad in the paper trying to give it away. *“FREE for the taking.”* I didn't get a single call. It was in good shape and very functional. A little time passed and I decided to try and sell it. *“Camper Shell \$150.”* It sold within a couple days!

Aren't you glad that those things that are of spiritual value are free? We tend to think that if something is free, it must not be worth anything but if you pay big bucks for something, it must be valuable. I'm glad God doesn't operate that way. He does just the opposite— He offers something of great

value for free!

In Isaiah 55, God is portrayed as a merchant in a marketplace calling out to the people passing by.

Isa 55:1-3, *“Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. 2 “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. 3 “Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David.”*

(Continued on Back Page)

No Excuse

One person's failure to live as they ought should never become another's excuse.

Consider the life of Elkanah (Samuel's Father). He is described in 1 Samuel 1 as a man who *"went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh"* (v.3). That doesn't sound like a big deal, traveling approx. 20 miles once a year. But really, it is a stunning fact in light of the rest of the story. We read, *"Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the Lord there."*

Hophni and Phinehas were selfish, corrupt, immoral men with no regard for God!

1 Sam 2:12, *"Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD."*

1 Sam 2:22, *"Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."*

They wouldn't listen to correction (v.25) and the text says they despised the offering of the Lord (v.17). However, their spiritual failure **never** became an excuse for Elkanah to stop worshiping the Lord! Think about how you would

feel in this situation. You go up once a year to make sacrifices and to worship the Lord in Shiloh. You **have** to deal with these two corrupt priests. They were not doing things the way the Lord instructed. Again, they were selfish, stubborn, corrupt, and even immoral! It would be awfully easy to think that if the priests of the Lord aren't doing what they are supposed to, then why should I! Or maybe we might consider that since these guys

aren't doing the sacrifices correctly, I'm not coming back!

There may be times when we see other people doing things they should not do, going places they should not go, or saying things that should not be

said. We may see people we know and trust, fail, either intentionally or unintentionally. It can be easy to become discouraged or disheartened by the action of others. However, it would be double the tragedy if we wavered in our own service to God because of someone else's actions.

Elkanah remained faithful because he focused on the Lord, not on the priests or anyone else. God calls upon us to keep our eyes and our hearts centered on Him.

Is your eyes and heart focused on Him in your life?

—Shane Williams

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Daily Practice

I read a story recently of a great Pianist talking about the need for daily practice. He said that if he missed a day, he would notice the difference in his playing. If he missed a few days practice, the critics would notice the difference. If a week went by without practice, the public would notice the difference.

There is certainly a spiritual lesson to be learned from this. We had better not be sporadic in our spiritual duties if we want to become more like Christ and if we want our lives to be for His Glory.

Like David, we should praise God every day (Ps. 145:2).

Psalm 145:2, *"Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever."*

Like the Bereans, we should be searching the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11).

Acts 17:11, *"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

Like Daniel, we need to set aside time to pray throughout the day (Dan. 6:10).

Dan 6:10, *"And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."*

Does your spiritual life need more practice? We encourage you to determine that you will put in the time and effort to be the best you can be for the Lord. To be spiritually fit, we need to feed on the Word and exercise our faith.

— Shane Williams

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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)