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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	7:30pm
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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.



Website:

We have a new website that can be found at:

<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

E-mail Bulletin:

We are now 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 would like to receive it.

Would you be interested in a **'FREE' Bible Study** 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:

shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

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

The Lilbourn Light



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



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Number 10

In the Belly of a Fish

Can you imagine how uncomfortable it would be in the stomach of a fish? It is hard to envision what that would feel like, yet this is precisely the place from which Jonah uttered his prayer in Jonah 2.

Jonah 2:1, "Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish."

As bad of a position as Jonah was in, there are many people in this dark and suffocating world who seem to think the place they find themselves is a pretty good place to be. They believe the world needs only a few social and political improvements to make it what they want it to be. Many also hold that people themselves possess the ability to make all the needed changes.

This is not the testimony of the Word of God, for it says *"the whole world lies in the power of the evil one"* (1 Jn. 5:19). The mission of the church is not to introduce social and political changes into the world, but to proclaim salvation as the way out.

Jonah was not so thoughtless as to suppose that God would make him a little more comfortable in the fish's belly, but he looked for deliverance out of it! He cried to the Lord and He heard him!

Jonah 2:2, "I called out of my distress to the Lord, and He answered me..."

We are not to look for perfection in this world but to look forward to the time when Christ will take us to our true home (John 14:2-3; I Peter 1:4).

— Shane Williams

Called by Name

Hearing our name spoken makes an impression on us one way or another. Whenever my mother asked in an authoritative voice, "Shane Eric Williams, what are you doing?" I knew she wasn't seeking information but rather I was likely in trouble. Yet hearing your "full name" read out loud in a graduation ceremony has an entirely different feel.

Names convey a sense of who we are and how others relate to us. Before the Messiah came into the world, He declared, "*Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name.*" (Isa. 49:1). This demonstrated the special relationship the Messiah had to God the Father.

It is even more exciting that this relationship extends to us through Jesus. Because of Christ, Christians have been adopted into the family of God (Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5).

Rom 8:17, "*Now if we are children,*

then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Eph 1:5, "*He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will*"

Because of Christ, Christians have been adopted into the family of God (Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5).

Talking about the shepherd and the sheep in John 10, Jesus said, "*the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.*" (10:3)

What a privilege and a comfort to those of us who put our confidence in Christ! God loves us more than we can imagine. We are His children, heirs of God.

Let us never take that for granted and live up to that name by which we have been called!

— Shane Williams

The Secret of Strength

If there's anything we tend to look down on, it is weakness. Strength, on the other hand, is regarded as commendable. Yet the apostle Paul made a perplexing statement: "*When I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Cor. 12:10).

How could he say that? He learned when his own strength gave out and his resources of energy and wisdom were depleted, he had to rely completely on God's endless strength. When he did that, he was so much stronger. It is similar to a traveler in the desert who tosses aside his bone-dry canteen because he has come to an oasis with an abundant supply of refreshing water.

God has often used people who were anything BUT strong, courageous, or over-powering.

- 1) Moses – Who am I? What if they won't believe me? Please Lord I've never been eloquent, recently or in the past?
- 2) David – The youngest, just a boy, a shepherd.

We only have to be willing to do His Will to be used in His service.

3) Joseph – Shepherd, hated by brothers, favored son, slave, prisoner, etc.

Many of God's greats have been weak men who did enormous things because they counted on Him being with them.

Have we learned this lesson? We don't have to be the most powerful, the most knowledgeable, or the most skilled person to be of service to God. We only have to be willing to do His Will to be used in His service.

Are you willing?

— 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)