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shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

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

Thoughts Worth Pondering

- Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much — Blaise Pascal

- You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

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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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'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

March, 2005

Number 12

Are You Tired of Manna?

Have you ever been on vacation somewhere (mountains, beach, etc.) and thought, "Wow, wouldn't it be great to live here?" We think that if we were to live in paradise, it would be just like it is when we are on vacation there. Yet, what would happen if you were to talk to the "locals?" They most likely think it's great BUT they don't have much time to enjoy it. They're trying to make a living, put their kids through school, trying to get ahead, saving for retirement, etc. The beauty that surrounds them either becomes so familiar that it doesn't excite them anymore OR they are too busy to enjoy what they have.

Not too long after the Israelites left from Egypt into the wilderness, they ran out of food. But God heard their cry and fed them miraculously with a daily supply of manna. At first they must have been awed by God's incredible provision but

after a while they grew tired of the same food day in and day out. They said in **Numbers 11:6**, "There is nothing at all to look at except this manna!" The familiar had lost its appeal.

Do you ever find yourself becoming apathetic with all the blessings God showers upon you each day? We must not take them for granted. Remember to thank God for His daily provision of life and strength, and for the countless good things He gives us each day. If you're ever feeling down and want to multiply your joy, just count your blessings.

Psalm 40:5, "Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which Thou hast done, And Thy thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with Thee; If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count."

— Shane Williams

Learning From Mistakes

The Bible is not a written record of perfect people (except for Jesus). Throughout the entire book, God's Word points out in painful detail the mistakes made by people of many different backgrounds.

Adam and Eve failed to obey God's specific instructions (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7). Abraham lied about his relationship to Sarah (Gen. 12:10-20). Moses grew angry and struck the rock in disobedience to God, not treating Him as Holy (Num. 20:7-12). David committed adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11-12). Solomon started out well but turned from God (1 Kings 3:5-9; 11:1-43). Peter denied even knowing Jesus (Mt. 26:69-75).

The Bible's truthful portrayal of the troubles that its characters brought upon themselves and others reminds me of a familiar saying: *"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself"* (Sam Levenson).

It is for our instruction and benefit that the Bible records the sinful actions of many of its key figures. The old saying *"Those who don't learn from history are bound to repeat it"* is certainly true.

The Jews (who were not Christians) on the day of Pentecost, after hearing the first gospel sermon, asked Peter, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (Acts 2:37). Peter said, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (38)"*

These men and women were guilty of crucifying Jesus, yet they were able to learn from their mistakes and benefit from Jesus' sacrifice.

To the Christian, John wrote (1 John 1:9), *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Even as Christians, we will make mistakes and fail miserably at times. God is there to help us (1 John 2:1-2). Christians are here to help one another. Jesus lived and died on this earth so that those who follow after Him do not have to pay the eternal price for their sins (Romans 6:23).

Do not let the mistakes of others and your own mistakes be for nothing. Learn from them and continually follow Jesus.

— Shane Williams

With What Do You Compare Yourself?

Do you remember being in the 6th grade or so and thinking about high school football? The players seemed huge and were looked at by younger kids with wonder and awe. They were old enough to be heroes and were generally the biggest, fastest, and toughest guys around.

It's different thinking about it now however, because now you realize that it all depends on whose team you're playing for. Compared with college or professional athletes, those guys didn't even rate.

Most things in life are like that. Whether we are tall or short, fat or thin, muscular or wimpy is relative. It all depends with whom we are comparing ourselves.

So, with whom are we measuring ourselves as Christians? According to the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 10, we aren't very wise if we try to feel good about ourselves by comparing ourselves with the people around us (v.12).

2 Cor 10:12, *"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by*

themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Nothing good can come of that kind of thinking. Ultimately the value and meaning of anything in life depends on how the Lord sees it. Paul wrote that it's not the one who commends himself who is approved, *"but whom the Lord commends"* (v.18). It's God's judgment that really matters.

Paul was content to serve Jesus faithfully and leave any praise of his life and work to God (1 Cor. 4:5). Can the same be said of us? If you must compare yourself with someone, compare yourself with Christ.

— 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; Mark 16:16; Gal. 3:27)
- ♦ **Be Faithful** until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)