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**Philippians 3:12-14**, *“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

**1 Corinthians 9:26-27**, *“Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

We cannot live our lives looking behind us at what we have done before. Likewise we don't need to let the failures of our past hinder us either. With God's help, we must keep pressing on!

— Shane Williams

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**Times of Assembly:**

<b><u>Sunday:</u></b>	
Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm
<b><u>Wednesday:</u></b>	
Bible Class	7:30pm

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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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## Press On

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, a promising Greek artist named Timanthes was being instructed by a well-known tutor. After several years, the young painter finally created a superb portrait. He was so proud with what he had painted that he sat day after day fixated at his work.

Soon after, however, he was appalled to discover that his teacher had purposely ruined his painting. In great anger he ran to his tutor and asked why he had destroyed his most cherished accomplishment. The wise man replied, *“I did it for your own good. That painting was retarding your progress. It was an excellent piece of art, but it*

*was not perfect. Start again and see if you can do even better.”* Timanthes took his advice and produced a masterpiece called "Sacrifice of Iphigenia," regarded by some as one of the best paintings of ancient times.

God never wants us to be content with looking back on our accomplishments. He wants us to reach even higher levels of service and godliness. Paul recognized this, for even though he was a godly man and accomplished much, he admitted that he still needed to advance in holiness (Phil. 3:12-14).

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## Salvation Made Clear

It is thought that Abraham Lincoln said, "God must have loved the common people, since He made so many of them." Because us "common folk" are so numerous, we should likewise be thankful that God made the way of salvation plain enough to be understood by all.

There's no entrance exam or essay as a requirement for salvation. Salvation does not depend on a person's ability to understand a complex philosophical formula of religious truth. If that were necessary, only the educated elite could ever hope to be saved! Such is not the case.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**, "Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may

*boast before him."* NIV

God doesn't require us to do something monumental. Rather He sent Jesus Christ to pay for our sins through His death on the cross. When we believe in Jesus as the Son of God, repent of our sins, confess our faith and are baptized for the forgiveness of our sins, who can boast of their salvation?? These are foolish things to the world. They are stumbling blocks to many, yet God chose the weak things to shame the strong. Anyone who can read the different accounts of conversion can see the pattern they obeyed.

Paul said that the gospel "*is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*" (Rom. 1:16). Whether educated or uneducated, knowledgeable or ignorant, anyone can follow the Lord. No one will be able to stand before God and say, "*The gospel was too difficult to understand.*" He has made it clear.

— Shane Williams

**No one will be able to stand before God and say, "The gospel was too difficult to understand."**

## Ending the Race

Living a long life, at least in America, isn't too difficult. Look at the statistics: Out of every 100,000 persons, 88% reach 50 years of age, more than 70% make it to 70, and almost 17% get to 85 or more. Our main goal should not be to live as many years as possible, rather, we should be concerned with making use of our time here by giving our lives significance and value. Far too many people live out their lives with no real purpose or goal.

The way we finish the race depends on what we do along the way. A well known biographer remarked that when we write an account of someone's life we should start with their death, not their birth. After all, we have nothing to do with the way our life began, but we have a lot to do with the way it ends.

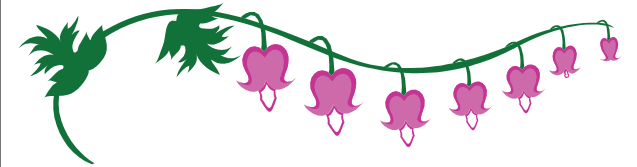
When Paul wrote 2 Timothy, he was likely in a Roman prison awaiting execution. He said, "*I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.*" (4:6). Even at such a time, he could say, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have*

*kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..."* (v.7).

You and I can also end the race well, even if we started late, began slowly, or stumbled along the way. The secret is to stay true to Christ to the end (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

— Shane Williams

**Far too many people live out their lives with no real purpose or goal.**



## 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; 1 Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ Be Faithful until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)