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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	7:00pm
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eat. Your clothes don't keep you warm. You're not prospering like you should. I have commanded you to rebuild My house. As long as you continue to disobey, you will not be fully blessed."

That message certainly has application for us as well. We first need to consider and follow what the Lord says in His Word. Excuses were never acceptable to God when the Jews offered them. They won't work for us either. Only then can we expect God's blessings.

Not all our difficulties in life are of our own making. But when troubles arise, it's always wise to consider our ways. We need to hold close to God and do His Will during times of prosperity and deficiency.

— Shane Williams

The Lilbourn Light



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



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Consider your ways

A main word in the book of Haggai is "consider;" specifically the idea of considering your ways.

Haggai 1:3-9, *"Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 " You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." 7 Thus says the LORD of*

hosts: "Consider your ways! 8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD. 9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house." Also used in 2:15,18.

God spoke through Haggai to the Israelites who had returned from exile. He said, in effect, "Think about it. You don't have enough to

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Peter's Struggle

Peter had a struggle in understanding God's purposes. He knew that Jesus was "the Christ of God." Lk. 9:20, "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." However Peter rebuked Jesus when He began teaching that He would suffer, be killed, and rise again (Mk. 8:31-32).

"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him."

Peter couldn't accept such a harsh event happening to Christ. In response, Jesus rebuked Peter because he had unintentionally expressed Satan's perspective. He was thinking as man thinks, not as God thinks. Jesus said (vs. 33), "... For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." Jesus knew that His death

was necessary to provide forgiveness, for "without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22).

On the cross Jesus paid the price for our sins. It wasn't with anger or malice but He did it willingly out of love for you and me. Although His horrible death was totally unwarranted, there was no other way He could save us. **John 15:13-14**, "Greater love

has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." Are you doing what Jesus says?

— Shane Williams

God's Will for good

The apostle Paul told the Christians at Thessalonica that he wanted to visit them but was hindered by Satan.

I Thess. 2:17-18, "But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to

come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us."

Does it bother you that a Christian can be hindered, even obstructed by the devil from doing what he believes to be the will of God? If it does, remember that nothing happens without God's knowledge. His purposes will be accomplished. The Lord can take any deed and turn it around for His own purposes and glory. We see this throughout Israel's history, when God used the wickedness of other nations to bring about His Will to punish Israel.

Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery. When Joseph later become a ruler in Egypt, his brothers feared he would seek revenge. Joseph told them (Gen. 50:20), "You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good."

In our example of Thessalonica, however, remember that the hindering of Paul resulted in great benefit to Christians! Not just the Thessalonians but ALL Christians. Since Paul couldn't speak to the Thessalonians personally, he wrote them a

letter. How blessed we are to have these two letters that Paul wrote to them! It has been a rich blessing for many for almost 2,000 years.

What a comfort to know that nothing happens apart from the will of our heavenly Father! He is all-wise and all-powerful. Under God's control, even bad things can be turned around to accomplish His good purposes.

Will you seek to do God's will in your life? God's Will will be done. Will you be a part of it?

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)

The Lord can take any deed and turn it around for His own purpose & glory.