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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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Website:

[Www.Lilbourncofc.com](http://www.Lilbourncofc.com)

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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.



New on the Website:

1). I changed the format of our audio section to use Windows Media files (.WMA) instead of Mp3's. This enables listeners to not have to wait for the entire file to download before playback begins. Currently our last two gospel meetings are posted on the site.

2). Back issues of the Lilbourn Light are available online in Adobe format (.PDF). Currently I have September 2004 through March 2008 on the site.

Our website can be found at:

<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

E-mail Bulletin:

We have now been putting out an e-mail edition of our bulletin for the past few months. 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.

The Lilbourn Light



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



Volume 8

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Number 12

Locked Door

Have you ever locked yourself out of your car or your house? At a time like this you often feel frustrated. It's a helpless feeling. *"What will I do now?"* I have someplace I need to be or someone to meet. It's too cold outside or someone won't be home for hours.

As bad as that may be, how terrible will it be for all who are "locked out" of heaven for eternity? Having waited too long and having never obeyed the gospel, they will suddenly face the frightening reality that the door of salvation is closed forever!

In the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), Jesus told of five who had prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. They had brought

enough oil to wait. The other five were not prepared and had to leave. When the bridegroom came, the five wise *"went in with him to the wedding"* (vs. 10). Later, however, when the five foolish virgins tried to go in, the door was shut! In response to their pleas, they heard him answer, *"I do not know you"* (v.12).

If Christ should return right now, millions would share a comparable outcome. What about you? Jesus said, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved"* (Jn. 10:9). Have you taken Him up on His offer? Don't risk waiting too long and the door being locked!

— Shane Williams

Opportunity for Change

The concept of reaping and sowing is taught and illustrated throughout the Bible (Gal. 6:7; II Cor. 9:6; Hosea 8:7; 10:12; Prov. 11:18). We may experience the effects of our choices in this life, or they may be experienced afterward, when we stand before God. Paul told Timothy, *"The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after"* (1 Tim 5:24).

With eternity in mind, it is much better to reap the consequences of sin in this lifetime. That's because while this life continues there is still time for repentance (II Peter 3:9).

In Judges 1, we learn that the Canaanite king Adoni-Bezek was fortunate in this respect. In keeping with the cruelty of his day, he had cut off the thumbs and big toes of 70 captured kings. However, the tables quickly turned. The Israelites captured Adoni-Bezek and cut off his big toes and thumbs. As wicked as he was though, he still had enough sense to admit that God was causing him to reap what he had sown (v.7).

We are not told whether he ever repented, but he represents a good lesson to us as one who had the opportunity to do so.

Judges 1:7, *"And Adoni-bezek said, 'Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.'"*

With eternity in mind, it is much better to reap the consequences of sin in this lifetime.

If we are in sin, we need to turn from it and follow the Lord. The Lord loves us and longs to forgive us. He wants us to have blessing and reward. Won't you turn to Him before it is too late? **Acts 22:16**, *"And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."*

Shane Williams

Partially Following the Lord

Jehu was Israel's king during a time of unbridled idolatry. He was determined to rid his nation of Baal worship. This repulsive form of paganism involved gross immorality and

moral degradation. Jehu successfully rooted out all Baal worship from the land (II Kings 10:28). God told him that his descendants would occupy Israel's throne for four generations (II Kings 10:30).

God was not fully pleased with Jehu however! The king did not completely obey the Lord. He still permitted the idolatrous worship of the golden

calves in Bethel and Dan. **II Kings 10:29**, *"However, as for the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin, from these Jehu did not depart, even the golden calves that were at Bethel and that were at Dan."*

Jehu did much of what God had in mind to be done. However, the text goes on to say (vs. 31), *"But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel sin."*

A war is raging between the Lord's army and the hosts of Satan. **Eph. 6:12**, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the*

world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

We are called to do spiritual battle on God's side. We must answer God's call to fight for the way of truth; however, we must do so in ways that please the Lord and bring honor to Him. Don't be like Jehu, who only went part of the way. God wants and deserves more than just people who partially follow His will. He wants children who love Him and desire to please Him in all things.

— 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)

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