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To avoid this, we must trust in the only "gauge" that will never fail and never deceive us ... the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23-25, "For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God . 24 For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the word of the Lord abides forever. " And this is the word which was preached to you."

The only way we can know if something is right or not is by God's Word. You can have many people tell you how great you are, be busy doing good works, and even have the preacher's blessing but those are all "imperfect gauges." Spend some time in God's word and only use it as your standard!

— Shane Williams

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Lilbourn, MO 63862

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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 7

May, 2006

Number 1

Empty Tank?

When I was growing up, my Dad had an old 1973 GMC pickup. It had triple gas tanks with a switch inside to swap tanks. One tank would show ¼ full when the tank was actually empty. Knowing when to fill up wasn't difficult, as we knew roughly where "Empty" was. However, someone who wasn't aware of this could have some problems. They would "assume" the gauge was reading correctly and run out of fuel.

How many people do you suppose are trusting in an "imperfect gauge?" How many people do you think are being told they're alright or that everything is

OK, but their "tank is empty?" I do know that on the Day of Judgment, there will be some who stand before Christ, surprised that they are not saved (Matthew 7:21-23).

Matt 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

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God's Property

A thief in New Jersey stole \$7,000 in valuables and cash from a widow. The items taken were all she had left from her husband's assets.

In sorting through his stolen goods, the thief came across several church offering envelopes containing money the woman intended to give to the Lord. The man left the contents inside, put them in another envelope and sent them off to the church the woman attended!

It is indeed a confusing time when someone would consider stealing from a widow and her children yet think it too much to steal from the church.

There's an important truth that this thief overlooked: A sin against our neighbor is a sin against God. Moses talked of someone deceiving his neighbor, robbing from his neighbor, or cheating his neighbor as sinning against the Lord (Lev. 6:2-4)!

All of us, I'm afraid, are prone

to think that "God's property line" starts somewhere near the front of the church building. I know we like to joke sometimes ... "*Don't say (or do) that, you're at church!*" God's boundaries, however, do not begin or end there. Everything and everyone belongs to God. To reverence Him is to respect the property that He has entrusted to others.

David said concerning his adultery with Bathsheba (**Psalm 51:4**), "*Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your*

sight."

Peter confronted Ananias with his sin (**Acts 5:4**), "*While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.*"

If we love and fear God, we will recognize that to sin against others is to sin against Him.

— Shane Williams

To reverence Him is to respect the property that He has entrusted to others.

True Riches

Did you ever have any trophies growing up? You worked so hard, practiced so intensely, and put in a bunch of time to end the year with a nice trophy. I recall having a couple from Soccer, a bunch from Baseball, & even some from Music. Where are your trophies now? Mine are likely in a box somewhere in my parents' garage or basement!

There was so much effort that went into those awards & yet now it doesn't seem as important. They no longer hold the value they once did.

So it will be at the end of our lives. All our possessions—the things we've spent a lifetime working for—won't even be worth keeping in a box in the garage. If we don't understand it yet, surely we will know then that the best "things" in life are not things at all.

We can, however, have the right perspective now, as Paul did. "*What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ*" (Philippians 3:7). What used to be important to Paul, didn't mean much to him anymore: Circumcised the 8th day, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, edu-

cated under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), Zeal as to persecute the Church, strict according to the Law (Acts 22:3). All of this wasn't even comparable with Jesus Christ!

Our greatest riches are the riches we have in Christ! Nothing else is equivalent! Nothing else will yield an eternal reward.

Paul went on to say: **Phil 4:19**, "*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*"

Consider your true riches and understand how little these other things mean.

— Shane Williams

Our greatest riches are the riches we have in Christ!

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)
- ⇒ **Be Faithful** until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)