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shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

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

Thoughts Worth Pondering

"The world will not persecute a worldly Christian."

"If it really doesn't matter how you live as a Christian, then why is it that most of the New Testament was written to Christians to show them how to live?"

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

Lilbourn Church of Christ
P.O. Box 270
Lilbourn, MO 63862
573-688-2234

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P.O. Box 270
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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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Website:

www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/

Preacher and Editor:

Shane Williams

Office: 573-688-2234

Home: 573-748-5204

shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

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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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Number 2

Be Careful What You Pray For

It is certainly possible for someone to look fine on the outside yet be extremely sick. Psalm 106 is a poetic description of the Israelites' **inward** poverty despite their **outward** wealth.

The psalmist recalled how God in His mercy and grace had repeatedly rescued His people as they traveled through the desert (Ps. 106:7-11).

Psalm 106:7-11, *"Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea — the Red Sea. 8 Nevertheless He saved them for*

His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known. 9 He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness. 10 He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. 11 The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left."

He supplied them each day with manna (Ex. 16:4-16), but the people didn't like the diet. Instead, they readily called to mind the menu they were served as slaves in Egypt, and grumbled, *"Who will give us meat to eat? . . . There is nothing at*

all except this manna before our eyes!" (Num. 11:4, 6).

God got tired of all their griping and He judged them in an interesting way— **He gave them what they asked for.** A wind blowing in from the sea covered the ground with quail. For 2 days the greedy people feasted on quail, but while the flesh was still between their teeth God hit them with a deadly plague (Num. 11:31-34). The psalmist commented, "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul" (Psalm 106:15). Although they were looking forward to the fullness that would come from this meat, inwardly they were starving to death!

Just because we address our desires to God doesn't automatically make them good prayers. They may be for our own selfish desires or we may ask with the wrong motivation. James wrote, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:3). How much better to say, "Above all, Lord, I want Your will!" That way, we'll not only get **what** we pray for, we'll **want** what we get. **Be careful what you pray for— you might get it.**

— Shane Williams

Looking For Loopholes

Many lawbreakers on trial for their crimes hope that some legal loopholes can be found to keep them from being punished. If they have enough money, they gladly pay for the services of lawyers who can discover a way of escape for their clients.

Just because we address our desires to God doesn't automatically make them good

In Matthew 23, Jesus spoke out against religious leaders who skillfully twisted the laws of God to their own benefit.

Matthew 23:14, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites,*

because you devour widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers;"

Matthew 23:23, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*"

Matthew 23:28, "*Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*"

What would He say to you and me? Do we sometimes look for loopholes in the plain teaching of Scripture to excuse our disobedience to God and perhaps lessen our sense of guilt? There are many people who try to justify **drinking, immorality, abortion, gambling, strife, jealousy,** and a host of other sins by twisting scripture to their own liking. The Bible is clear that scripture can be twisted to our own destruction (II Peter 3:16). Who wants to be guilty of that? A loophole is not an escape hatch. It is a lie and seeks to put one scripture up against another.

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II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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)

— Shane Williams