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point Mark must have changed and reconciled with Paul. In Col. 4:10-11, Mark is mentioned in the final greetings to the Church at Colosse. He is mentioned among those who are "fellow workers for the kingdom of God."

When Paul was in prison, he asked Timothy to come and to bring Mark with him. He indicated that Mark was "useful to me for service (ministry)" (2 Timothy 4:11).

We cannot erase what we did wrong yesterday but we can certainly learn from it. When we take our sins and mistakes to the Lord and seek His help, we can be better today and tomorrow.

— Shane Williams

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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

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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Learning from Yesterday

We all have some regrets about the past and try to forget our sins and mistakes. We know that we can't change what happened yesterday. However we can learn from yesterday's shortcomings, and with God's help we can use that knowledge to make a better tomorrow.

That's what John Mark did. He had started on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas but when they entered Asia Minor he abandoned them and went back home (Acts 13:13; 15:38).

Acts 13:13, "Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from

Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John left them and returned to Jerusalem."

Acts 15:38, "But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work."

We're not told why he left, but the apostle Paul saw it as a dishonorable desertion.

Later, Mark became a co-worker with Barnabas (15:39). We don't know the details, but at some

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Clear the Way for the Lord!

In ancient times, there were not many good highways. There certainly were not paved super highways like there are now in many parts of the world. It was much more difficult to travel to most places by land than what it is now.

When a king was planning a trip to another country, he would send out servants, slaves and/or his army to prepare the way for him. They would remove stones and level the planned route. They might even have to lower hills or raise a small valley. They would do their best to straighten out the many curves that might be in the road. All of this was done to make the path easier for travel.

The king expected this to be done. He had full confidence in those put in charge of the project. He needed the road to be prepared right so that he would not be delayed in arriving at his destination.

In Isaiah 40:3-8, we read about the one who would clear the way for the Christ. Isaiah stated that he would prepare the way of the Lord. He would make the desert highway smooth. He would make every valley higher and

every mountain lower. He would make the rough ground become a plain. After all of this, the glory of the Lord would be revealed. Today, we know that this prophecy was about John the Baptizer.

John was a great man. He lived a rough life and died a horrible death but it was his responsibility to prepare the people for Jesus. Remember, when he came, he proclaimed, *“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”* (Matthew 3:2).

Peter quoted from Isaiah 40:7-8 in his writings. In talking about the living and abiding word of God, he said, *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the LORD endures forever”* (I Peter 1:24-25).

Next he says, *“And this is the word which was preached to you.”* John prepared the way, Christ came and made the sacrifice for our sins, God’s Word records all these things for us and it stands the test of time (it endures forever).

This is the word which was preached. This is the word we strive to proclaim today. Will you not follow it?

— Shane Williams

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When Everything Goes Wrong

Disheartened Jacob was at the end of his rope! After hearing disturbing news from his sons who had just returned from Egypt, he said in complete frustration, *“Everything is against me!”* (Gen. 42:36 NIV).

So many things seemed like they were working against him. Joseph had been taken from him. Famine was plaguing the land of Canaan. Simeon was being held as a hostage in Egypt. Now the most current problem, Benjamin, the youngest son, was being demanded as a requirement to secure his brother’s release. This was almost too much for aging Jacob to bear. He was overwhelmed by these circumstances and felt that everything had turned against him. *In reality though, God was working out His Divine Plan!*

When things finally began to settle for Jacob, it became clearer that all these painful events were actually intended for the ultimate good. They led to his sons being reunited, dead Joseph was actually alive and ruling in Egypt, and they all moved to Egypt where the Lord made Jacobs’ offspring into a great nation. *Even though Jacob had affirmed that everything was against him, from God’s perspective everything was going for*

him!

I hope this helps us to see the limited perspective we have on matters. We must trust in God’s Will and in His ability to know what is best for us. If we are living as we ought, have confidence in God and His plan!

Even though Jacob had affirmed that everything was against him, from God’s perspective everything was going for him!

When everything seems to be going wrong, rely on the truth that *“all things work together for good to those who love the Lord”* (Rom. 8:28). Then, instead of throwing our hands in the air with disbelief, you’ll be able to say confidently, *“God is working in my best interest!”*

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