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Kewanee, MO 63860

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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centrating on the joy before Him He endured the cross. Will we concentrate on our goal (heaven) and endure whatever life throws at us? We cannot win the race of faith by looking behind us. We must look forward to the prize!

— Shane Williams



Website:

Our website can be found at:
<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

We recently finished an excellent gospel meeting the last week in July. The theme for the week was *"Morality in the 21st Century."* The lessons have been placed on the **"Audio"** page of our website. If you wish to have a set of CD's instead, please contact us with your mailing information.

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 3

The Race of Faith

Hebrews 12 tells the story on running the race of faith successfully. The writer emphasizes endurance and discipline. Without these qualities, the race cannot be won.

Heb. 12:1, *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"*

Winning a race is enjoyable, but the work involved is often painful. To be spiritual athletes, we must

rid ourselves of every weight and sin that ensnares us. That requires discipline. We must accept the "work" of endurance for the joy that is set before us—finishing the race successfully.

The race of faith is unique because we're not trying to surpass one another, so as to win. We are competing against ourselves and Satan, not others. To win over sin and self, we must endure to the end. Jesus is the perfect example for us. He looked ahead to the goal. Con-

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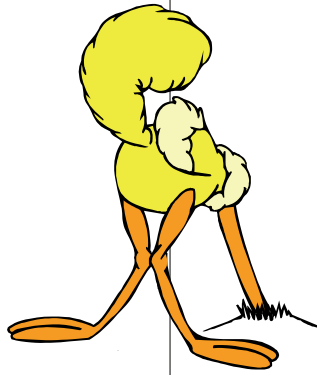
Undercover Christianity

A story is told about a Christian who got a job as a lumberjack. The workers had a reputation for being ungodly. A friend, learning that the man had been hired, told him, "If those lumberjacks ever find out you're a Christian, you're going to be in for a hard time!"

Being a Christian is not a secret to be kept but rather a truth to be told!

After a year or so, the man decided to return home for a visit. While in town, his friend asked him, "Well, did they give you a hard time because you're a Christian?" "Oh no, not at all," the man replied. "They didn't give me a bit of trouble—they never even found out!"

That is certainly not the kind of "Christian" we read about in the Bible! What use would you be if your family, neighbors, and co-workers were completely unaware of your relationship to Christ? "Undercover Christianity" is a contradiction of terms. How could we never do or say anything



to give evidence of our identification with Him?

The Lord expects us as His followers to live for Him. **Matt 5:13-16**,

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Being a Christian is not a secret to be kept but rather a truth to be told! Will you be seen as a light in the darkness or will you blend in to your surroundings?

— Shane Williams

Why are you here?

Why are we here? One "authority" on the subject from Harvard commented on how life began:

"We [exist] because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures; because the earth never froze entirely during an ice age...We may yearn for a 'higher' answer—but none exists."

Contrast that godless reasoning with the glorious affirmation of the opening verse of the Bible: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Gen. 1:1).

There is a higher answer! We're here because the Lord Almighty has brought everything into existence by His will and power (Col. 1:16).

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been

created by Him and for Him."

We're here because a wise, loving Creator wanted us and formed us as beings who are able to obey Him, serve Him, trust Him, and love Him.

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth..."

Which answer makes more sense to you? The answer that we're here because of a series of chance accidents—that answer leads to depression and hopelessness? Or do you accept the biblical

answer that brings the hope of everlasting love and life?

— 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)