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known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods" (Dan. 3:17-18). If they would have been killed, you would still hear sermons on their great faith!

Today, you and I may not be in a furnace but we may be in an uncomfortable or even a desperate spot. If we aren't delivered out of our "hot spot," is God still God to us? Or do we feel resentful because He hasn't come through as we wanted?

This story pushes us to a deeper appreciation for God, our Faith, & His Word. It comes down to a reliance upon God's Will and an understanding of His control. Am I willing to serve God even if I get no payoff in this life? Will I say, "The God whom I serve is able to deliver me; but if not, I refuse to serve other gods?"

Let us have this resolve and not waiver in our faith.

— Shane Williams

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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 6

August, 2005

Number 5

## A Hot Spot

What a story! Three young men who refused to treat their king as a god ended up walking around in a furnace of fire (Dan. 3:21-25). The furnace was so hot that those in charge of the incineration died from the heat (vs. 22), but these three young champions didn't even smell like smoke when they were finally brought out (vs. 27)!

It is a great story of faith, yet many stories of strong faith do not end that way. Consider Stephen in Acts 7. He was stoned to death because he told the Jews they were just like their fathers! History tells us that all the apostles with perhaps the exception of John were killed for their faith. Why wasn't God "in the furnace" with them?

My family and I recently went to Paducah, KY to see the "From the

Dead Sea Scrolls to the Bible in America" Exhibit. There was a short film that was rather revealing about what men went through in order to put the Bible in the language and in the hands of common folk. People were put to death for just trying to translate the Bible into English! Yet man today won't take the time to read what is now so easily accessible. Our memories are short-lived.

The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego could have ended in their violent deaths. Those three young men knew that, for they said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us . . . . But if not, let it be

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## He Knows Who You Are

How many stars are there? Astronomers don't know. They assure us, however, that the universe contains more stars than can be numbered. Billions for sure—probably trillions!

Figures like that are hard for us to comprehend. Even a million boggles the mind. If you were counting a million \$1 bills at the rate of 60 a minute for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, it would take you nearly 7 weeks to complete the task. At the same rate it would take over 133 years to count a billion dollars.

The Bible declares that God, the architect of the sun and moon, "made the stars also" (Gen. 1:16). It likewise tells us in **Isaiah 40:26**, "Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing." NIV

**How humbling it is to think that the God, who calls each star by name, knows, loves & cares for each of us.**

So if we ever wonder whether God really knows who we are or if He is really able to help us with our cares & burdens, let us remember that He is the supreme ruler of the stars. Surely He who is the ruler of the galaxies can deal with our situations.

How humbling it is to think that the God, who calls each star by name, knows, loves & cares for each of us.

**Ps 147:4-6**, "He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. 6 The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground."

Let us seek after the Lord, who cares so much for us.

— Shane Williams

## What Does Your Life Say?

What does your Life say to those around you? In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul used two word pictures to describe the type of influence we should have on those around us.

1) Our lives are to be the fragrance of Christ, a soothing aroma to believers but foul to those who refuse to be saved (2 Cor. 2:14-17).

**II Cor. 2:15-16**, "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

2) We are to be like living letters that speak well of our Lord, our brethren, and the gospel (3:2-3).

**II Cor. 3:2-3**, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and

read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

You might take some comfort in the last words of a loved one in this life, but a faithful life says so much more. That's something to keep in mind as we evaluate how our lives are being viewed by others. At our own death the evidence of our lives will say even more than our final words! Let us be sure of what our life is saying.

— 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)