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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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I Peter 5:10, *"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."*

Trouble on the horizon? Put your confidence in God. He helped the early Christians who suffered through persecutions to overcome. He will help us through our troubles today.

— Shane Williams



Website:

<http://www.Lilbourncofc.com>

CD's available from our recent meeting: *"Morality in the 21st Century."*

The lessons have also been placed on the **"Audio"** page of our website.

The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -**Psalm 119:105**



Volume 10

August, 2009

Number 4

Where do you turn?

Where you turn when you're in trouble reveals your character. What does it tell us about young kids whose trouble turns them toward gangs, guns or drugs? What do we learn about adults whose problems direct them toward alcohol, adultery or the weird teachings of a cult?

What about ourselves? Where do we turn when we have trouble in life? Do we look to the world or the Bible for wisdom? Where do we look for help when we are struggling with sin? We must turn to the Lord Jesus and to His Word. He is the only one who can help and certainly the only one who can offer us

forgiveness. The answers of this world will never lead us to "real" help but only to destruction.

The Christians to whom Peter addressed were facing various trials (I Peter 1:6), slander & maligning (I Peter 3:15; 4:4), sufferings & reviling (I Peter 4:12-14). To whom should they turn? Not the world or its ways but rather *"the God of all grace"* (I Peter 5:10). We need to look back and remember that He called us, recognize His glory in Christ, and look ahead to see how God is equipping us through our difficulties.

(continued on back page)

One life is enough

One life is all we're given. It doesn't matter if we wish for more time, another life, or greater opportunity. Within God's sovereign purposes, one life, whether long or short, is enough.

In Acts 20:22-23, Paul reveals that he didn't know what would happen to him when he came to Jerusalem but he did know that bonds & affliction awaited him. In 21:11, a prophet revealed to Paul that he would be bound and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles. However, instead of avoiding Jerusalem, Paul declared, *"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."* (20:24). Paul's goal was not to extend his ministry but to complete it.

Our goal, like Paul's, should be to glorify Christ in our body, "whether

by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20). Then, if necessary, we can afford to lose our freedom and even our very lives. We can be sure God will use others to carry on His work.

Our goal, like Paul's, should be to glorify Christ in our body, "whether by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20).

Paul's death did not bring his influence to an end. He always instructed others to press on. He entrusted them with the need to be faithful. In Acts 20:32, he commended the Ephesian elders to God and His word which is able to "build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." We still reap the benefits of his life even today.

Life is brief— "a vapor" (Jas. 4:14). With Christ's help, let's invest our lives in something that will outlast us.

— Shane Williams

Spiritually Productive

We all enjoy seeing beautiful landscapes. Whether it is vast fields ready to be harvested or a magnificent garden where flowers bloom and great beauty is everywhere to behold.

What about a plot of land that is a memorial to neglect? Anything of beauty or that which could be good and useful can be choked out with that which is undesirable.

The apostle Peter told us how we can avoid being "barren" (useless) and "unfruitful" (2 Pet. 1:8). He encouraged Christians to be diligent and spiritually productive, developing the character qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (vss. 5-7).

Doing this requires effort on our part. It demands that we work on our relationship with God. We need to be reading the Bible regularly, praying often, resisting temptation, focusing on obedience to Him, and reaching out to others in love. Peter

mentioned the additional benefits of being fruitful: a continued assurance, spiritual stability ("you will never stumble"), and an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior (vss. 10-11).

Peter encouraged Christians to be diligent and spiritually productive...

How productive is your life? Is your life in God's sight one of beauty or neglect?

— 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)