

to Jesus' question, wanted to know where He was staying. Not only did Jesus show them the place, He spent the remainder of the day with them.

I wonder how often we miss the opportunity to spend time with Jesus because we are busy seeking things of this world. The more time I spend with the Lord, the more I realize that other matters are far less important.

What do you seek? If it is the Lord, He is there to be found. He desires above all that we seek after Him.

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30*

— Shane Williams

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive this bulletin each month? If so, send us an e-mail at: [shanewms@sheltonbbs.com](mailto:shanewms@sheltonbbs.com)

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**Times of Assembly:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	
Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	
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 5

September, 2004

Number 6

## What Do You Seek?

**Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" —John 1:38**

How would you answer if Jesus were to ask you, *"What do you seek?"* Perhaps you would ask for better health, a higher paying job or financial security. Would you ask for a happier marriage or an explanation of some difficult passage of scripture?

For the two disciples of John the Baptist, Jesus was the one they were seeking. One day while John was standing with these two disciples (vs. 35), Jesus walked by and John proclaimed, *"Behold, the Lamb of God!"* After these two disciples heard John say this of Jesus, they started following after Him.

When Jesus saw them, He asked, *"What do you seek?"* (v.38).

John had been teaching his disciples about one who was coming after him. John was preaching, *"There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose"* (Mark 1:7). John's disciples were looking for this "One". When John saw Jesus and identified Him by saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God," these disciples did not hesitate to turn and follow Jesus.

These two disciples, in response

## Limitation Or Advantage?

*He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* —2 Corinthians 12:9

Most people have been taught that when we ask God for something through prayer, His answer may be Yes, No, or Wait. "No" is an answer, though usually not the one we are looking for. Such was the case with the apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12. Paul pleaded with the Lord three times to remove his "thorn in the flesh" (II Corinthians 12:7-8).

Nobody knows what Paul's thorn was but what we do know is that it weakened him. Paul, like many of us, wanted to be strong for the Lord. He wanted to be as strong as he could be. Yet this "thorn in the flesh" kept him from exalting himself (vs. 7). Even though God didn't grant Paul's request, He did answer his prayer. The Lord's response was, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"* (II Corinthians 12:9). The strength of Paul was not in himself. To boast of himself would not bring about the praise of God. The all-sufficient strength of Christ was Paul's boast!

At first glance, God answering Paul's prayer in the negative seems like quite a limitation. Paul, with this thorn in the flesh, might not be able to accomplish as much for the Lord with this hindrance. However, he regarded God's answer to his prayer as an advantage. That's why Paul could say, *"Therefore I am well*

*content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong"* (II Corinthians 12:10).

What about us today? Have you ever prayed for deliverance from something that weakens you? I imagine most of us have. Regardless of whether this hindrance is removed or not, our resolve must be the same: Lean on God for His strength. We cannot just rely upon ourselves and our own goodness. That's just not going to cut it. Instead, let us trust in the all-sufficient strength of Christ.

Whatever our weaknesses, problems, or difficulties, we must follow after the Lord to the very best of our ability.

*"For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you"* (II Cor 13:4).

— Shane Williams

## Acceptable Worship

*"You bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick. . . . Should I accept this from your hand?" says the Lord."* —Malachi 1:13

*"I have no pleasure in you... Nor will I accept an offering from your hands."* This was the Lord's stinging rebuke to

His people through the prophet Malachi (1:10). God was upset with their careless, sloppy methods of worship. The animals they brought for sacrifice were not acceptable to Him because they were defiled (vs. 7). They were offering animals that were blind, lame, sick (vs. 8), and stolen (vs. 10), even though they had animals which were acceptable (vs. 14).

It's hard to imagine people showing such an apathetic attitude toward God and yet, can we not be guilty of the same kind of principles in our own worship to God?

God's people were not offering Him the very best that they had. He makes the point that they would not feed these same animals they were sacrificing to the Governor, if he came to visit (vs. 8). The Governor would not be pleased with a meal that was stolen or a supper that came from a sick sheep. Some today believe that everything is acceptable to God as long as you are worshipping Him. *"It doesn't matter what you do, just do something,"* is the plea of many. This passage clearly shows that this is not the case. We must offer our best to God if it is to be acceptable. There are churches around that offer a "casual" style of worship or some even phrase it as "California Worship." Why can't we just worship God the way He says and not worry about what we consider to be comfortable or easy?

While they were "worshipping" Him, they were saying, *"Oh, What a Weariness!"* and sneering at it (vs. 13).

Another problem these people had is that their hearts were not in it. They were just "going through the motions." It does no good to pray to God, if your heart is not in it. It does no good to sing praises to God, if you aren't thinking about what you are singing. It does no good to partake of the Lord's Supper Memorial, if you are not thinking about the death of Jesus on the Cross. Do we think we can fool God by just methodically going through worship without our heart being involved? If so, we are fooling ourselves. Some people's biggest concern on Sunday morning is getting out in time to "beat everyone" to the local restaurant!

What is acceptable worship? Jesus said, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24). To worship Him with the right spirit is to worship with the right attitude. So our hearts must be in it (attitude) and it must be according to truth. Notice that it will not be enough to worship Him sincerely only. We must also worship according to truth.

Think about what you do in worship to God and compare it with the teachings of the New Testament. What a terrible thing it would be for God to say to us as he did to Israel, *"Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you"* **Malachi 1:10**

— Shane Williams