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I suppose this is nothing new. We read of those believers in the Bible who *“loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

**John 12:42-43**, *“Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

May God help us to think more long term about our actions. When we forsake the Lord, it has a much greater effect than just ourselves. It also affects our brethren, our influence with those around us, and our children! If we are truly going to seek the Kingdom and God’s righteousness first as Jesus said (Matt. 6:33), then it requires everything else to be behind them. Let us put more emphasis on our standing before God than we do on the praise of man!

— 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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# The Lilbourn Light



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



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## Desire For Praise

What child do you know that does not like to be praised? They desire the praise of their parents and parents do well to encourage their children in this way. Adults also like to receive the approval of people they respect. There is nothing wrong with this. Honest praise can be very encouraging and can bring out the best in us. The Bible tells us to look forward to the day when we will receive praise from God (1 Cor. 4:5). The problem, however, is that we often place more value on applause we receive from people in this life than on praise from God in the life to come.

Teenagers are often talked to about the dangers of peer pressure.

We don’t want teens to give in to pressure and do things that are wrong just to be considered “cool” by their peers. Yet are we (the adults) willing to “give in” to our friends when they want us to do something that God would rather us not? When we miss worshipping the Lord because we are doing something else (traveling, visiting friends, or playing), all we have accomplished is to show those around us that we put more value on the world than we do on God. How will we ever teach our friends, neighbors & family when they see us sacrificing God for other activities?

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## God Is With Us

At the end of the book of Deuteronomy and in the beginning of Joshua, the children of Israel could have faced a severe crisis. Moses, their leader, had just died. What would they do? Who would lead them? Would they now perish in the wilderness?

Of course not! Moses had died but God certainly was not dead! He told the new leader, Joshua, precisely what to do next: *"Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them"* (Josh. 1:2). Then the Lord spoke these words of assurance to Joshua (5-6): *"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage..."*

Yes, Moses was dead, but God was still alive. His plans for the nation of Israel would continue.

That should be a comfort for

us today! Even though troubling times come, great leaders rise and fall, precious loved ones die, help & comfort from friends and family come and go; remember, God is not dead. He is always with us.

**Our trust is NOT in man but is in the living God!**

Sometimes you may be weighed down with the cares of life — perhaps discouraged and sad? But remember, our trust is NOT in man but is in the living God! Just as He was with Moses, Joshua, and the children of Israel, so He is with us.

**Heb 13:5-6**, *"For He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?'"*

— Shane Williams

## When God Speaks

We are bad about procrastination aren't we? "I'm going to lose weight." "I'm going to start reading my Bible every morning." "I'm going to quit doing such-n-

such." We all make statements like these— strong announcements of what we want to happen. However, saying something and bringing about the results are not the same. It takes effort and dedication, and even then what we want to happen may not take place.

Fortunately for us, that is not the case with God. According to Psalm 33, when He speaks, what He says takes place! For instance, verse 6 says, *"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth."* God spoke, and the world came into existence. What evidence of God's power! It should remind us of the infinite difference between the Creator and His creations (us). When we speak, we voice our wishes; yet, when God speaks, He creates reality!

This wonderful truth inspires us to put into action the commands of Psalm 33:1-3, *"Rejoice in the Lord," "Praise the Lord," and "Sing to Him."* His words bring forth worlds, and our words need to

bring forth praise to Him.

Today, let us do more than just say, "I'm going to honor God or rejoice in His greatness." Let us show by our words, our lives & our actions how we really feel. If you haven't submitted your life to serving God, this is NOT the time to put it off. Now is the time to follow after the Lord and submit ourselves to His will.

— 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)