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Lilbourn Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 270  
Lilbourn, MO 63862

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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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#### Website:

[www.Lilbourncofc.com](http://www.Lilbourncofc.com)

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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.



#### Website:

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

#### Sermon CD's:

Would you like a set of CD's from our recent Gospel Meeting? If so, you can e-mail us at the address below or write to us at the address on the left. They are also available on our website in Windows Media format (.WMA).

Would you be interested in a **'FREE' Bible Study** through the mail? If so, please send your name and address to the address on the left. You can also send me an e-mail with your information to:

[shanewms@sheltonbbs.com](mailto:shanewms@sheltonbbs.com)

There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!

# The Lilbourn Light



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



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## Part-Time Christianity

We all know of people who claim to be Christians, yet do not regularly attend services. Some may show up on Easter or Christmas at some "church" and think that's enough. It's the whole mindset that Christianity is NOT a way of life but instead a part-time plan.

We must be especially careful that we do not engage in part-time Christianity. We do that when we pick the time and place to practice our faith instead of being consistent every moment of every day.

When we choose to sin, neglect our relationship with Christ or let the world squeeze us into its mold, we become part-time Christians. Jesus told us to take up our cross daily and follow Him (Lk. 9:23). He didn't suffer an agonizingly cruel death on the cross so that we could pick and choose when we want to follow Him.

Why do some turn their back on our Savior and in effect tell Him to step out for a little while? Usually it's because they are thinking only of themselves. Yet a Christian is one who has died to self. He is no longer a slave to sin but to righteousness (Rom. 6:6-7, 17-18). As Paul said, *"...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."* (Gal. 2:20).

There is nothing part-time about following Jesus. We must not fall into the trap of thinking we can put on or take off Christ like a piece of clothing. When difficulties come, the Christian can't call "time-out" or put Jesus on hold. Christianity is a way of life. **Col. 3:17**, *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

— Shane Williams

## The Myth

Once we decide to obey God completely, it's easy to assume that the rest of our life will run smoothly. If it does, we think this proves that we're doing God's will. If we run into obstacles, however, we're quick to conclude that we must be doing something wrong or God is unhappy with us. Rather than question our measuring stick, we question our dedication, and sometimes even God.

It's a myth to believe that if we obey God, everything will always go well. Being dedicated to God means going with Him even when things don't go our way. In fact, as you consider the growth of the church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Bible is clear that the gospel advanced during times of suffering.

Although Paul was imprisoned when he wrote to the Philippians, his adversity didn't cause him concern. His objective was to preach the gospel and he didn't question that goal just because he had been arrested. He made the most of the

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circumstances and continued to proclaim Jesus even to his captors. His imprisonment furthered the gospel!

**Phil. 1:12-14**, *"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear."*

How would you and I react if we were in Paul's shoes? Would we question our faithfulness, God's love for us, or perhaps question if there was even a God?

Don't be fooled by the misleading notion that life will be easy if you obey God. God doesn't always remove difficulties; He uses them for your good and for His glory.

— Shane Williams

## Life from a Seed

During Passover week, Jerusalem would have had numerous visitors. There were a number of Greeks who also came to worship at the feast. They asked Philip if they could see Jesus. In response, Jesus said, *"The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified"* (Jn. 12:23). Then, contrary to what His listeners had likely anticipated, Jesus compared His life to a seed. A seed must first die in order to live and bear fruit.

**John 12:24-25**, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

As Christians, we don't like the thought of dying to self. Yet in nature we readily accept that a seed must pass through death to produce new life in the spring. We know that seeds germinate under the ground's surface, though we don't see it happening.

I'm sure we've all planted seeds and

we have seen these very things take place. One morning you look and there is the first sign of life coming out of the seed. Eventually it rises to full bloom.

Today, if we die to self, we can be confident that spiritual fruit will develop within us, even though we can't see it fully yet. We can rejoice over every seed of self that dies, for it's a sign of the coming of true life that is found only in Jesus Christ.

**John 12:26**, *"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."*

— 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)

**A seed must first die in order to live and bear fruit.**