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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

**Website:**

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

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mous, and the influential, it's encouraging to know that every child of God has an equal right to the Father in heaven. The psalmist wrote, *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth"* (Ps. 145:18).

With that assurance we can come confidently to God in prayer, knowing we will never be turned away or placed on hold. Are you a child of God? If not, you need to be (Gal. 3:26-27). Do you utilize your right to come boldly to the throne of grace?

— Shane Williams



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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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Number 5

## Equal Treatment

Airplanes are remarkable machines. It's amazing that something so big and heavy can fly. It's astonishing that there are so many different sizes and varieties. One can view all sizes at an airport from jets and prop planes to commercial and private planes. It is fascinating that a small plane has the same rights as a large plane, even a jumbo jet. A small plane is not viewed as less important or disposable even though it is not carrying as much cargo or as many passengers.



It is similar to how God views a Christian. When we pray, it doesn't matter if we are "small" in comparison to others. We do not take a back seat. No one is given priority over another.

**Hebrews 4:16,** *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,*

*that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

In a world that offers privileged treatment to the wealthy, the fa-  
*(continued on back page)*

## Watch out for the Bears!

If you have ever been to an area with a bear population, you no doubt have seen warnings. People who know the habits of bears, offer the following suggestions for safety:

- Don't climb a tree.
- Don't run.
- Never feed a bear.
- Most importantly, don't get between a mother bear and her cubs.

In the book of Hosea, God described Himself as being as angry with Israel as a mother bear who has been deprived of her cubs (13:8-9).

**Hos 13:8**, *"Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open...."* **Vs. 9**, *"You are destroyed, O Israel, because you are against me, against your helper."*

God had done so much to show His love, but His people had wandered away from Him and taken the path of disobedience. So He allowed their enemies to cause them trouble, while reminding them of His love (13:4-6; 14:1-9).

We need to learn from what happened to Israel. To avoid God's anger and enjoy His love today:

1. **Love and worship Him above all.**

**Hos 13:4**, "Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me."

2. **Don't try to hide your sin or dismiss your sin —confess it.**

**Hos 14:1-2**, *"Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity. 2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, 'Take away all iniquity, And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit*

*of our lips."*

3. **Stay on the path of righteousness.**

**Hos 14:9**, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them."*

Our God is a jealous God (Ex. 34:14). He loves us and wants what is best for us but He will not tolerate disobedience.

**II Corinthians 5:10**, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

— Shane Williams

## The Journey of your life.

Think about your relationship with your spouse. Over the period of time you've been married, you have likely grown tremendously in your relationship. You can easily see how little you knew the person before you were married compared to now. Over the course of your marriage you have exchanged countless words in conversation, you have made thousands of decisions and you have cooperated in the raising of your children.

Imagine how odd it would be to assume that once we said our wedding vows there was nothing else we needed to do. What if we said, *"We are done! We made the decision. We don't need to cultivate our relationship anymore."*

Now think about the decision you also made if you are a Christian. Just because you have followed Christ and were baptized into Him, do you think there is nothing else to do? That would be worse than failing to nurture a marriage.

Following Jesus in doing what's necessary to be saved is the first step in the journey of our life. Our relationship with God will grow stagnant if we don't talk to Him, grow in our knowledge of Him, and increase in our love for Him.

**I Cor. 15:58**, *"... be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

The "Christian graces" listed in **II Peter 1** are a call for growth. Diligence must be applied. If we apply this diligence to our faith, virtue, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, we will not be useless or unfruitful. Peter concluded this epistle by saying (3:18), *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

How's your relationship with the Lord today? Is it a journey of growth or just a distant memory?

— 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)

**He loves us and wants what is best for us but He will not tolerate disobedience.**

**Just because you have followed Christ and were baptized into Him, do you think there is nothing else to do?**