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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	7:00pm
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#### Website:

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*(continued from front page)*

the better. If Christianity is false, it is of no importance. If it is true, it is of immeasurable importance. **The ONE thing it cannot be is moderately or some-what important.**

There are no two ways about it. Jesus doesn't ask for our vote as the most appealing candidate for Savior of the world. "Vote for Me" or "Here's what I'll do better than the other guy..." He simply states His lordship and desires our commitment to follow after Him. Does He have yours? After all, we cannot claim Him as Lord and not obey Him! **Luke 6:46,** *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

**Acts 4:12,** *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*

— Shane Williams

# 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

## How many ways to God?

The world today thrives on ideas. Everyone has ideas; everyone has an equal right to ideas. People have the right to say what they believe. However, that doesn't mean all ideas are equally right. One opinion is NOT as good as another when it comes to serving God.

Christianity claims that Jesus is the only way to God. It is not because of prejudice or of superiority but because we believe it is true. Christians take seriously Jesus' claim that He alone is the true and living way to God.

Many people shrug off the claims of Jesus as the only Savior of the world by saying, "Well, that's all fine and good for you. You have your way to God and I have mine." Jesus forever put an end to that sort of thinking when He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6).

If Jesus' claims are true, they are true for everyone. If they are false, the sooner we are proved wrong and put on the right road

**Continued on back page**

## Should God explain Himself?

It is easy for us to think that we need explanations for everything that happens or doesn't happen in life. If we aren't successful in something we think is right, we expect that God owes us an explanation. Sometimes when we don't understand things we might say, "When I get to heaven, I'll ask God to explain...", why prayers weren't answered, why tragedies weren't prevented, why my thought out God-centered plans didn't come about, etc.

In **Romans 8:28**, Paul didn't promise that all circumstances and events would be explained—assuming we could even fully understand the explanation! Rather, he promised that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

The story of Job reassures us that questioning God is not unusual in man. No, Job did not understand why these terrible tragedies had befallen him. His friends certainly weren't very helpful. Job did have questions as to the "why" of it all. Job was righteous but he also wanted God to explain why this had happened to him.

**Job 10:1-8**, "My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. <sup>2</sup> I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me. <sup>3</sup> Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, And smile on the counsel of the wicked? <sup>4</sup> Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man

sees? <sup>5</sup> Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man, <sup>6</sup> That You should seek for my iniquity And search out my sin, <sup>7</sup> Although You know that I am not wicked, And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand? <sup>8</sup> 'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me."

Job clearly questions God, yet God doesn't comply by explaining Himself. Instead, He bombarded Job with His own searching and humbling questions (Job 38-41). "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning?" "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds so that an abundance of water may cover you?" "Gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you and you instruct Me."

The Almighty does not have to explain Himself, nor is He required to reveal His grand design. He reveals Himself and His plans, in His way and in His time.

Thoroughly humbled, Job admitted, "I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know" (Job 42:3).

Like Job, will you now follow and obey God? Do you think God owes you further explanation or has He given you enough for you to understand?

Shane Williams

## Lest you forget

You would think the people of Israel would never have forgotten God. Not only had God brought them out of slavery in the Land of Egypt, but he brought them through the Red Sea. Then each day in the wilderness He fed them with manna. He even saw to it that their clothes didn't wear out (Deut. 8:4; Neh. 9:21). And He brought them into a land filled with abundant resources.

Everywhere they looked, the Israelites saw God at work. Yet they turned to other gods and forgot the One who had led them and cared for them. That memory loss proved fatal. Before they entered the Promised Land, Moses warned them:

**Deut. 4:9**, "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren"

**Deut. 4:15-16, 19** "Take careful heed to yourselves...<sup>16</sup> lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup> the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, <sup>18</sup> the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. <sup>19</sup> And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage."

What was Moses' point? Don't forget what you've seen! Don't forget what God has done for you! Remember and teach these truths to your children!

**Deut. 4:23-24**, "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. <sup>24</sup> For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

**"Take careful heed to yourselves... lest you act corruptly"**

We are not living under the old covenant today but there is an important lesson here for us. Will we remember what God has done for us? Will we recount His blessings and teach our children? Will we follow the same forgetful path that Israel followed? Let us take time to remember what God has done for us and then give Him the love, devotion and service He deserves.

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)