

## **ATTENTION!!**

### **MeetUp Class**

Monday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m.  
28561 Sunnyslope St.  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

### **Visiting Needs**

**Jesus Said...*"I was sick and you visited Me..."***  
Matthew 25:36

### **April Birthdays**

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson  
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

### **April Anniversaries**

19 Bill & Kena Brown

### **May Birthdays**

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 Kena Brown

#### **Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:**  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher:**  
Jack Critchfield

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# ***Indio Informer***

Vol. 33 No. 17

April 24, 2022

## **Reverencing God's Name**

By Mike Riley

In today's digital world, it's sometimes difficult to keep up with the abbreviated terminology that accompanies today's fast-paced, youth-oriented electronic communication. For example, in the "Instant Messaging" (IM) world, the text-message language, "laughing out loud" becomes "lol." The phrase, "By the way" becomes "btw." And regrettably, some people are using "omg" for "Oh, my God!"

This last phrase seems to be on the lips of many who receive startling news. But as Christians, we need to stop and think before we utter this or any other phrase that flippantly uses God's name (cf. Exodus 20:7).

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in Matthew Chapter 6, the first thing He told them to say was this: "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name*" (Matthew 6:9). Clearly, God's name itself is special. It encompasses His holy nature (1 Peter 1:15-16; cf. Leviticus 11:44-45), His teachings (2 Timothy 3:15 - KJV; cf. John 5:39), His moral authority (John 17:1-3; cf. John 8:10-11; Mark 2:1-12;), and His moral character (1 Thessalonians 4:7; 2 Peter 3:11). To speak the name of God is to call on the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Hebrews 1:1-3; cf. Acts 17:24-25; Nehemiah 9:6).

In every way possible, we should honor and protect God's holy name, preserving its use for those occasions when we are speaking of Him or addressing Him in faith (Psalm 111:9 KJV; cf. Luke 1:49).

Let's be careful never to turn the hallowed name of Almighty God (Genesis 17:1 KJV) into just another flippant phrase on our lips or in a digital text message.

*"May all I am and do and say  
Give glory to my Lord alway;  
And may no act of mine cause shame  
Nor bring reproach upon His name."*

(Anonymous)

## **Freeing Me by Freeing You**

By Jack Critchfield

Slavery has existed, I suppose, from shortly after God created mankind. It has caused untold pain and anguish in the process. I doubt there would be many who would condone the owning of one person by another.

But there is another form of slavery which is even worse. Slavery of the mind commonly is more horrible than slavery of the body. Frequently, an enslaved mind enslaves the body. Damaged emotions and distorted perspectives condemn the body to an unfulfilled, joyless existence. Such a mind and body experience pain frequently and contentment rarely.

Everyone sees such slavery. Consider persons enslaved mentally and physically to bitterness, jealousy, envy, anger, or vengeance. Nothing in their lives is a source of joy. Their obsession forces these people to live in degrees of misery that are always evident. Minds enslaved to such emotions constantly express themselves in the persons' attitudes, words, actions, and body language. They never miss an opportunity to vent. Their slavery cannot be hidden.

The person enslaved focuses on the person who is the object of his or her bitterness, jealousy, envy, anger, or vengeance. The person is obsessed with his or her consuming emotion. The one who is the object of the contempt will never "pay" enough or suffer enough to right the perceived or actual wrong. The object of this contempt will never be free. He or she will be resented, despised, or hated so long as the enslaved one lives. With but one exception: forgiveness can liberate.

Two are enslaved by such negative emotions: the person who is the object of the emotions, and the person who possesses the emotions. The object is the partial slave. The possessor is the total slave. The possessor can be freed only by freeing the object.

The single greatest liberating force in human existence is forgiveness. Compassion acts on empathy. Mercy offers help. Kindness seeks to encourage. But forgiveness liberates--both the forgiver and the forgiven. Forgiveness is not the burden of my Christian responsibility. It is the gateway to my freedom. The past ceases to rule my present only when I forgive. Each time I forgive another, I free myself.

## **Confession and Consistency**

By Joe Slater

By confessing Jesus as Lord, we obligate ourselves to obey Him. "Lord" isn't just a respectful title. It refers to a master, one who has the right to decide and control.

Jesus asked this piercing question: *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"* (Luke 6:46). Calling Jesus 'Lord' acknowledges that He has the right to decide what we ought to do and to control our behavior. He has done so through His inspired word, the Bible. Do we recognize our own inconsistency when we call Him Lord, yet neglect to do what the Scriptures teach?

An old cliché says, "Talk is cheap." Truly, we can pay lip service to nearly anything. "You shouldn't litter!" (Then I throw trash out of my car window.) "I love my family!" (Then I speak harshly, sarcastically, and rudely to them.)

Confessing Christ as Lord certainly is a good thing! In fact, it's essential to salvation (Romans 10:9-10). But Jesus demands more than mere lip service. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21). Moreover, we don't get to pick and choose what parts of His will to obey. Those converted to Christ are to *"obey all things that I have commanded you"* (28:20).

A servant who refuses to obey his master shouldn't expect that master to be pleased with him. Do we expect Jesus to be pleased with us?