

Attention!

Business Meeting: Next Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Good Quotes...to Live By

- *The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intentions.*
- *The best way to cheer ourselves up is the cheer somebody else up.*
- *One thing we can give and still keep - is our word.*
- *Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often.*

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 45

November 6, 2022

“That Many Pastors Can’t be Wrong”

By Jeff Smelser

So asserted an advertisement for a direct mail service used by more than 1,000 churches. One would think that even with a passing familiarity with the Bible, people would be reluctant to determine the validity of something based on the number of people who believe in it.

When the twelve spies returned to the camp of Israel to report what they had seen in Canaan, ten of them said, “*We are not able to go up against the people for they are too strong for us*” (Numbers 13:31) while only two said “*We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it*” (Numbers 13:30). The people, evidently thinking that surely ten spies couldn’t be wrong when only two spies offered a contrary opinion, balked at trying to invade Canaan. The ten were wrong— the two were right.

Goliath was a giant who opposed the army of Israel in the days of King Saul. It was the prevailing opinion that Goliath could not be defeated. “*When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid*” (I Samuel 17:24). It would have been easy for a youth such as David to assume that so many trained soldiers, could not be wrong. But you know the rest of the story.

The law of Moses warned against being swayed by a multitude: “*You shall not follow a multitude in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice*” (Exodus 23:2).

And Jesus said, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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And yet the stumbling block for many in obeying the pure gospel of Jesus Christ is that doing so would be an implicit denunciation of Christendom, and it seems that “millions professing Christians can’t be wrong!” They can be and they are. And the only way I can be right is to follow God’s word without being swayed by the multitudes.

“Unknown Tongue”?

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

In Paul’s discussion of miraculous capabilities bestowed upon first century Christians in the church at Corinth, he repeatedly refers to the gift of tongue speaking. The insertion of the word “unknown” before the word “tongue” (glossa) in 1 Corinthians 14 occurs six times in the KJV (vss. 2, 4, 13, 14, 19, 27), with some other translations generally reflecting the same practice.¹ The Greek word for “tongue” was used in antiquity to refer both to the physical organ of speech, as well as to spoken languages. Unfortunately, the word “unknown” lends itself to the misconception that the Corinthians spoke in ecstatic utterances or “heavenly” languages that no humans naturally spoke. Such thinking has provided impetus for the charismatic movement’s practice of unintelligible gibberish to which the speaker or interpreter may then assign subjective, alleged meanings.

However, both the context, as well as the occurrence of tongue speaking elsewhere in the New Testament, demonstrates that the practice consisted solely of known human languages that were unknown to the one speaking the language, i.e., the speaker had no prior training by which to learn or know the language. He spoke the language strictly by God’s miraculous empowerment. Undoubtedly, the insertion of “unknown” by the KJV translators was not intended to convey the idea that the tongues were unknown to all humans and, as such, were non-earthly, non-human languages.

Acts 2 illustrates how tongue speaking functioned in the early church. The miraculous endowment by the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to speak foreign human languages (which they had not studied) to people from a variety of geographical locales (e.g., Parthians, Medes, Arabians—Acts 2:9-11). That is precisely why

Paul made the point that “*tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers*” (1 Corinthians 14:22). Unbelievers would hardly be impressed if a Christian merely babbled in mindless gibberish. But he would be very impressed—and would sit up and take notice—if a Christian began speaking his language, well knowing that the speaker did not know that language on his own.

Unwanted!

By Ron Bartanen

“Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them: for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship and returned back again” (Luke 8:37).

Jesus Christ will not impose Himself upon anyone. He won’t stay where he’s unwanted. The Gadarenes were so upset with Jesus when He cast a legion of demons from a man and sent them into nearby hogs. To them, the hogs were of more value than the man, so they “*besought him to depart from them.*” In our world today there is an increasing animosity towards Jesus as He seemingly intrudes into men’s comfort-zones. Even the mention of His name in prayer is not considered appropriate in schools, the military, etc. His word is considered out-of-date and irrelevant.

Some would purposely exclude Him from their lives. These would tell us there should be no positive mention of Him in school or public activities. He is even being written out of school history books.

Some would exclude Him in their choice of lifestyle. Evil so fills their hearts and lives, it is impossible for Christ to take up residence in them. He is excluded from their lives.

Some would crowd Him out—not purposely, but simply by filling their lives with material things. Such find no time for Christ, Bible reading or church. Other things clamor for their attention.

What about us? Will we be among those to send Him away? Or will we welcome Him into our life?