

Thank You!
Today's Speaker
Alexis Brown

NEW MEMBER!!!

Elizabeth Carrillo obeyed the gospel and was baptized last Wednesday night. Let's all welcome and encourage her as she begins her journey as a Christian. Her address: 43475 Reclinata Way, Indio, CA 92201. Her phone number: (760) 391-8613

Becoming Effective Christians

"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:16

October Birthdays

8 Esmeralda McCollum 28 Allan Brown

Regular Meeting Times

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

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 34 No. 42

October 15, 2023

Becoming Effective Christians

Yes, we had a wonderful Fall gospel meeting! The following are "bullet points" from one of brother Randall Jarrell's lessons which can serve as valuable reminders for each of us as individuals and our congregation...our family...His body! Review the emphasis in Ephesians 4:16 on back page of this bulletin.

Lesson #1..."Act on God's Values, not Personal Circumstances!"

- We act the way we act for one reason only...we choose to act that way!
 - Between a stimulus and our response to it, there exists a space of time...in that space of time there is a **freedom** and **power** that comes because we are ALWAYS able to choose our response.
 - The space between what happens to us and...what we do about it is the basis of this first principle that will help us to be "Effective Christians".
 - Unlike participation in Biblical events or forms, our response to the stimulus or circumstance that surround us is a true indicator of our lifestyle.

People who want to be an effective Christian realize that they alone are responsible for the choices they make. They base those choices on the principles of God rather than their moods or the conditions that surround them. They choose not to be victims, nor do they blame others for any circumstance in which they find themselves.

When this life ends, we will all be eternally responsible for the choices we make ...BUT...daily we are also held responsible for the choices we make at every step in our lives.

- God created each of us with four abilities unique to human beings...
 - **Self-awareness:** The God-given ability to stand apart from our own lives and observe our own actions.
 - **Conscience:** The God-given ability to evaluate what we have observed about ourselves.
 - **Imagination:** The God-given ability to do something different than what we have just been doing or what we have always done.
 - **Independent will:** The God-given ability to take action on what we know rather than the circumstance we face.

Our ability to live effectively as Christians is directly related to the extent that we develop these four abilities...we cannot be effective if these are not found in our everyday activity. These four God-given abilities stand between what happens to us and what we do about it.

- **Practical applications:**
 - Instead of speaking disrespectfully or acting in rude and discourteous ways when others speak that way toward us. “Be kind to one another”
 - Be not easily offended!
 - When something bad does happen to us, we bounce back quickly!
 - We take responsibility for our choices!
 - Instead of never saying “I’m sorry” when we do that which is wrong...apologize quickly.
 - Instead of talking about others or criticizing or complaining about someone when they aren’t there...be loyal to those not present.
 - Instead of being quick to take offense, or holding grudges, or bringing up past mistakes...forgive!
- **Conclusion:** No matter where we are right now in our life, we can begin to apply this first principle of being an “Effective Christian”...and choose to act based on what we know, and not what we feel.

...To be continued...watch next week.

The Hall of Fame of Faith

By David R. Ferguson

Hebrews 11:1-2 [ESV] reads as follows: “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.*” So begins this wondrous chapter in God’s word, a chapter which has been aptly named the Hall of Fame of Faith.

A life spent learning to obey God is like a journey with a starting point, a route and a destination or ending point. For Abraham that journey began when he left his home in Ur of the Chaldees to travel wherever God would lead him. He didn’t always know what route that journey would take. But he learned through faith to trust in God to direct his steps.

We can all be encouraged by these examples we read of in the Book of Genesis from the life of the father of the faithful, Abraham. Just like Abraham, one doesn’t learn to live by faith all at once. It does not come naturally. We must learn and, as we learn, we will make mistakes. But those mistakes need not cut us off from God. He’s a patient, compassionate and merciful teacher. He’s a gracious, loving Father! And for those who do follow God in faith, there’s the absolute promise given to us by Jesus Christ: “*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*” (Hebrews 13:5 [ESV]).

Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6), yet faith only will not save us, either, as can be seen in Numbers 20:7-12 [ESV]. Moses obviously had faith in God, but he was disobedient when it came to him not speaking to the rock as God had commanded, and he struck it instead. His disobedience cost him entrance into the Promised Land.

And for further proof that faith alone doesn’t save us, listen to what James writes: “*You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone*” (James 2:24 [ESV]). It doesn’t get any clearer than that.

There is but one true faith. And you and I must examine ourselves and prove ourselves on this point, whether we be in “the faith” as Paul refers to it in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Jude does in Jude 1:3. By being in “the faith,” we can walk in the light of the Lord and bring others to Christ!