

**Thank You!  
Today's Speaker  
Tom West**

**NEW MEMBER!!!**

Elizabeth Carrillo obeyed the gospel and was baptized at the end of our gospel meeting...her spiritual birthday (October 11, 2023); below note her physical birthday...also October. 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 16 Elizabeth Carrillo  
28 Allan 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: Vacant**

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

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 34 No. 43

October 22, 2023

**Determining Faithfulness...God's Standard**

The following are “bullet points” from another of brother Randall Jarrell's lessons which can serve as valuable reminders for each of us as individuals and our congregation in determining our faithfulness! Review the emphasis in Ephesians 4:16 on back page of this bulletin.

**“Moving Beyond Form to Effectiveness”**

God has always required certain formal activities; mankind has always needed those forms and events.

- As followers of God, engaging in the forms and events of Christianity are a necessary part of our lives.
- However...anecdotal evidence affirms that mere participation in Biblically mandated forms is not a true indication that we are actually growing to maturity and effectiveness. In reality, we may still be very far from being effective Christians.
- We are encouraged to rethink our understanding of faithfulness and our definition of what it means to be a Christian who is effective in life and action.
- In the minds of many Christians, one's standing before God is determined by attendance at all worship services and by being “sound” on the hot issue of the day. It is much easier to judge ourselves and others on that basis.
- From the outside, many look like disciples, because their lives are characterized by the **events and forms of religion** in which they engaged and the **knowledge** they possess...Yet on the inside, something is often very wrong.
- Throughout history some worshipped God in the forms He required...but the Bible says in some cases, God hated their worship. Read Isaiah 1 and Amos 5 as examples.

- No Christian ever attained spiritual effectiveness by only **outwardly engaging the forms of Christianity**...or by being correct on all doctrinal issues.
- By which of the following criterion should we gauge our lives as being “Effective Christians? By living through form and one’s knowledge of Scripture, or through resolve and character?

### Conclusions:

- Lasting change in our lives; true change in our lives; and thus, coming to possess the effective nature of Christ is not necessarily indicated through the forms of our work and worship.
- Living effectively as children of God is always found in the heart... engaging in the forms or events of Christianity are quite often found only in the flesh.
- Becoming effective Christians is indicated by real and visible changes in behavior that occur because of changes in our hearts. Consider Ephesians 1:15-19; Philippians 1:8-11; Colossians 1:9-12.

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

## Religion of the Heart

By Kevin Cauley

Christianity is a religion of the heart. This does not mean that Christianity is without commands, laws, or divine expectations. What does it mean? It means that it is up to the individual to practice it personally. That is, no one, other than the individual, is going to enforce it.



In Hebrews 8:10, we read, *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”* This is a quotation from Jeremiah 31:33. God was telling the people of Jeremiah’s day that the system of law He gave through Moses was not going to be used in the future. Instead, God was going to have a system in

which each person decided whether to follow Him or not. This system would not be enforced by the national authorities (as was done under the Law of Moses), but within the heart and mind of the individual—in other words, by their own free will. Essentially, it would be a system based upon faith.

In that way, this is the same system of religion practiced by Abraham—a system based on faith. That is why in Romans 4 Paul highlights the faith of Abraham as an example. He was not under the law of Moses. His religion was of the heart, freely practiced, based on faith. Romans 4:13 states, *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”* In other words, to be a faithful Christian, the choice is ours.

## Worship God’s Way, Not Ours

Excerpts from article by Brad Harrub

God has told us—through His inspired Word—exactly what our worship to Him should look like. In the New Testament we find five different acts of worship that God commands us to do. Each one of these is commanded, so the question: Will we humble ourselves enough to do what God instructs? (This first week...Prayer).

### Prayer

Multiple times in the New Testament, we find passages emphasizing the importance of prayer, not just in our own spiritual life, but also as an act of worship. In 1 Timothy 2:8, we find Paul telling us, *“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”* In 1 John 5:14, John tells us, *“Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”* Prayer is the way in which we talk to our Heavenly Father. Just as prayer is an important part of our everyday life, it’s an incredibly important part of our worship to God.

Next week: Worship God’s Way...Singing