

**Attention!**

Business meeting, next Sunday  
December 10 at 2:30 p.m.

**Planning Ahead...Last Saturday Meeting  
Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**We'll Work 'til Jesus Comes**

After baptism...what then?...David Barnes  
Attitudes needed for congregational work...Bruce Evans  
Measure of a strong Christian...Joe Griffin

**Questions of Life**

Why did God make man?...Bruce Evans  
What is man that God should be mindful of him?...Joe Griffin  
What man needs to know about salvation...David Barnes

**December Birthdays**

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 31 Bob Pescador

**December Anniversaries**

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

# Indio Informer

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## Why Be Rational in Religion?

By Kevin Cauley

I was talking with someone the other day regarding coming to the services. The person explained that he was going to a denomination right now because his child liked going to this place. That is when this thought crossed my mind. Would I leave any other major decision in my life up to a child? If I were to go buy a car for the family, would I let the child decide which dealership to go to? Which model to drive? If I were buying a house or looking for a job, would I put that decision solely in the hands of my child? Granted they might get some input, but children are just not equipped to make those kinds of important decisions. Now take the fact that the soul is the most valuable commodity that man owns today and then ask yourself, "Would you put the decision for what to do with your soul in the hands of your child, merely based upon your child's likes and dislikes?" This seemed to me to be a very irrational thought. However, I then immediately realized that people are often very irrational when it comes to matters of religion.

Take for example the popularly used sentiment, "I just feel it in my heart." This is one of the all time great irrationalities of religion. This is used to justify just about every sort of practice known to man on the planet. However, take this same sentiment into the corporate boardroom and put it in front of a CEO and a board of directors for how to spend money and you will get laughed out of the business. Take a few salesmen and set them before potential clients and tell them to say, "You need to buy my product because I feel in my heart that it is right for you" and they will leave empty handed. The soul is much more valuable than any amount of money to be spent by a business or any product to be sold, yet

**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**

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people often sell their own souls short in matters of religion by expressing this inadequate measurement of truth.

Another great irrationality is this, “If it was good enough for my mother and father, it is good enough for me” or “That is where my family goes, so I just go with them.” This is one that I know people use in religion but seldom use in every day life. For example, when someone is asked why they believe a certain doctrine, they might give this sentiment. However, when it comes to the type of job one has, or the type of car one drives, or the house one lives in, it just isn’t good enough. How many would abandon their new cars for the old broken-down jalopy that their parents drove years and years ago. How many would abandon their new houses for the old kindling row houses of yesteryear? If anything, Americans live by the principle that parents should create a better life for their children, yet, when it comes to religion that evidently doesn’t apply. Again, the soul is so much more valuable than houses, cars, and jobs. Why should we not hold religion to the highest standard of rationality?

How many times have you heard this one, “It doesn’t matter what you believe.” Whoa! Now there’s one that you better not take with you to driving school. That sentiment is just not going to pass there. “I know that sign says ‘STOP’ but it just doesn’t matter what you believe.” When is the last time you told a police officer that after he stopped you for speeding. “Officer, I know I was doing 80 in a 35, but you know, after all, it doesn’t matter what you believe.” I think that you will find a deaf ear when that ticket is written. And don’t even try this one in a court of law. “I know I wrote a hot check, judge, but after all, it doesn’t matter what you believe.” I am sure you will hear the judge reply, “30 days, and if you don’t believe that it is wrong after that amount of time, you can have another 60.” However, when it comes to religion, this ranks in the top five excuses for not doing what is right. How much more valuable is the soul! Yet we don’t hold those who claim to care for it to the high standards that we hold our driving instructors, law officers and judges.

Each of these sentiments represents a different flavor of irrationality. It is obvious to all that regarding matters of practicality that these sentiments would never be able to pass. However, when it comes to religion, people expect the irrational. So, they excuse themselves in irrational ways. However, the religion of Jesus Christ is NOT irrational. In fact, when Paul went to preach the gospel to others, the scriptures say that he “reasoned” with them (Acts 17:2; 18:4; 18:19; 24:25). We are admonished by Paul to “*prove all things*” 1 Thess.5:19. John tells us to “*try the spirits*” (John 4:1). In dealing with matters of religion, we are to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Peter 4:11). None of these things involves the types of excuses that are given above. And when it all boils down to it, that is the bottom line, these are just excuses. The religion of Jesus Christ is not irrational as popular culture would have you to believe. God desires us to think and act correctly in regard to His word. There is nothing more valuable or important than one’s own soul (Matthew 16:26). We should apply the same exacting standards of rationality toward it as we would toward any other matter of importance in this life. “*Come let us reason together, saith the Lord*” (Isaiah 1:8a).

## **Worship God’s Way, Not Ours** By Brad Harrub

Thankfully 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 again the question remains: Will we humble ourselves enough to do what God instructs? Next, in this series is “The Lord’s Supper” as an act of worship:

### **The Lord’s Supper**

In each of the Gospel accounts, right before His crucifixion, Jesus partakes in the Lord’s Supper with his apostles and when he does so, he says, “*Do this in remembrance of me.*” The Lord’s Supper is a time in which we fulfill this command given to us by Jesus. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 gives us a detailed description of what the Lord supper is and verses 30-32 inform us that it should be a time of self-examination. A time where we focus on what Jesus did for us on the cross.