

## Attention

New Membership Directories are available  
(enough for each member to have one)

Add New Member to your directory

Paulo Alexander Prado

Phone: (442) 529-6690

(Address to follow)

## Speaker for Today

Thank you, Dion Hawkins

## Future Consolation for Faithfulness

God *“will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain... The one who overcomes will inherit these things...”* Revelation 21:4, 6

### 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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# Indio Informer

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*“Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and do not lean on  
your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

## CONFIDENCE



## **I'm Not Ashamed**

By Jared Green

In the introduction of Paul's letter to the Romans, he explained his love and care for the church in Rome. Paul desired to spend time with them, and he was "*eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome*" (1:15). Immediately following his heartfelt introduction, Paul provided what I consider to be the thesis of his letter. He said, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'*" (Romans 1:15-16).

A study through Romans provides a clear answer as to why Paul began the body of his letter with a proclamation that he was not ashamed of the gospel. The gospel, as preached by Paul and the Apostles, was met with great opposition at times. Just in this letter, Paul dealt with things such as God's coming wrath on the unrighteous (chapters 1-2), the sinfulness of all people (chapter 3), righteousness through faith in Christ apart from the Law (chapters 3-7), salvation for all people regardless of race or ancestral heritage (chapters 9-11), submission to governing authorities (chapter 13), and a call to neither pass judgement on one another's choices nor cause a brother or sister to stumble (chapter 14).

Because of the difficult messages in each of the letter's sections, there could be plenty of reasons to be ashamed. Who wants to call someone out on their sin? Who wants to tell someone about God's coming wrath? Yet Paul made clear that he was not ashamed of the gospel. Why? Because he knew that the gospel of Jesus Christ provided the only path to salvation for the people he loved. Did that mean Paul had to have hard conversations? Of course, but he approached those difficult conversations with confidence in the truth, hope, and love of Christ's gospel.

Most of us would stand in agreement with Paul that we are unashamed of the gospel, but do our lives support that stance? As it was in Paul's day, our world meets the difficult message of the gospel with opposition. As a result, it is easier to turn a blind eye to the sins of those around me. It is easier to make myself believe that it is not my job to step in and have a difficult conversation with someone I care about. It is easier to tell myself that someone around me can hear the beautiful message of Christ's gospel from someone else. It is easier to live as though I am ashamed of the gospel. I challenge each of us, however, to stand firm and unashamed in the gospel, "*for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes*" (Romans 1:16).

## **Dependence on God**

The Bible clearly encourages us to be dependent on God and put our trust in Him. Jesus says, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me,*" (John 14:6). Dependency on God is not a negative, but rather something we should strive for in our Christian walk.

David said, "*God alone is my rock and my salvation, My refuge; I will not be shaken. My salvation and my glory rest on God; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us.*" (Psalms 62:6-8)

## **Confidence in God**

***"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."*** (Psalms 23:1-4 NKJV)