

Welcome New Family Members

Salvatore (Sal) Contino
69100 McCallum Way #E204
Cathedral City, CA 92234
Phone: (214) 340-9111
Email: salvatorious@gmail.com

Flor Diaz
46520 Grand Street
Indio, CA 92201
Phone: (442) 306-1602
Email: diazvflor@gmail.com

Baptized into Christ!

**Wonderful News: Friday afternoon, Daniel Brown baptized
Paulo Alexander Prado! Praise God!**

Speaker for Today

Thank you again, Walter York

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)

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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"***

Entering the Kingdom of Heaven

By Edd Sterchi

Many people believe that all one has to do is claim Jesus as Lord and they will automatically be placed in His kingdom. On the other end of the spectrum are the folks who think they can earn salvation through good works in His name. The debates and arguments concerning this are endless.

Why not get the answer from the Savior Himself? He settles the issue in Matthew 7:21-23, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not...done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* Let's note a few important matters from this.

Just recognizing Jesus as Lord is not enough. Did you notice that there were some who called Jesus "Lord", but they were not saved? God demands more than just mental acknowledgment. The head is not enough.

Just doing something in Jesus' name is not enough. Did you also notice that there were some who were doing wonderful things

to honor Jesus, but they too were not saved? Works alone fall short of God's formula for justification. The hands are not enough.

We become a part of the kingdom of heaven through obedience to God. If one has such a respect for God and His wishes, there will be no problem believing Him and doing His will exactly as stated in His word. Obviously, this involves the heart. The heart that is right and set on God's ways will involve the head and the hands in obedience, as well.

Have we obeyed God's plan of salvation? Are we truly doing the will of the Father in heaven? Are we intent on living the way He has prescribed in the New Testament? Remember, let us start with the heart, believe His word, and perform the will of the Father.

"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:25)

*"If you love Me, you will
keep my commandments"*

John 14:15

(His commandments are found in His word)

What the Church Offers

By Bill Brandstatter

Too many folks look upon church attendance as being secondary to anything else on their schedule. They are not opposed to religion. They may even look upon it as a vital part of life; but they have no conscience against neglecting it. Perhaps the attitude is: "I'll go to church if nothing comes up, or if I am not too tired." But to stay away because we have so many other engagements or

because we have so little strength left is like staying away from the dinner table because we are too hungry to go to the table. The Bible tells us that this was not uncommon in the first century. The writer of Hebrews notes *"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some..."* (Hebrews 10:25a).

What then does the church have to offer that a person cannot get anywhere else? One man said, "I do not go to church anymore because I can get what the church has to offer in better form elsewhere." When the church gets into the business of offering the world what the world already has, it is in the wrong business and is not the church of the New Testament. The mission of God's church is to save souls (Luke 19:10; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:4). God's power for saving souls is in the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). It is the mission of the church to preach the gospel.

The church offers a family atmosphere to believers not found elsewhere. The early church was said to be *"together and had all things common."* (Acts 2:42) Each member of the church is important. The church is to offer assistance to the believer in need (1 John 3:17). The church is where the saved are (Acts 2:47). Their names are enrolled in heaven (Hebrew 12:23). Where else can people have fellowship, communion with God and associations that they have in the church? In what other institution can we find the same assurance? Where else is offered the hope of everlasting life?

Harmony Among Christians

David, a man *"after God's own heart"* said, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity!"* Psalms 133:1

Jesus' prayer: *"I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* John 17:20-21