

## “Be Careful What We Say”

*“But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Matthew 12:36-37

### July Birthdays

19 Sal Contino

### August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree 12 Debbie Hoffman

16 Nick Hoffman 27 Isaiah Diaz

#### 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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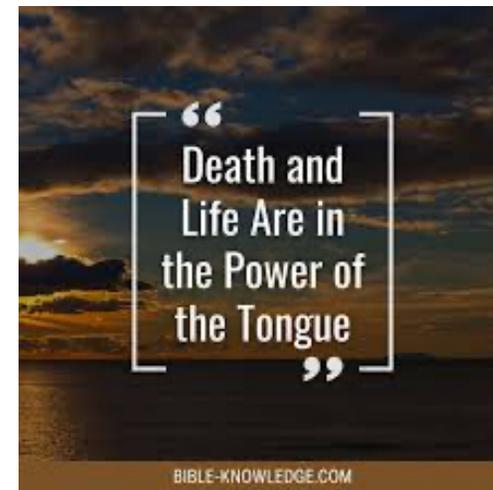
# Indio Informer

Vol. 36 No. 29  
July 27, 2025

*“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”*



### Count to Ten?

By Joe Slater

Few things bring us more regret than words we have spoken. Especially when a situation is heated by emotion, we tend to speak harshly rather than letting our speech be *“with grace, seasoned with salt”* (Colossians 4:6).

I remember a piece of advice: “Count to ten” before saying anything. Even ten might be insufficient, but the principle

of thinking before speaking finds much support in Scripture.

*“Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him”* (Proverbs 29:20). That applies, by the way, to additional settings besides anger. Simple off-the-cuff remarks can devastate someone’s feelings even though you didn’t intend it.

But angry words are the culprit more often than not. An excellent song admonishes us: “Angry words, Oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip.” The writer obviously referred to James 1:26 where the Lord’s brother wrote, *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.”*

Just as a bridle controls a horse, we must control our tongue (i.e. our words). Hear again the wise King Solomon: *“A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back”* (Proverbs 29:11). Someone protests, “I was just speaking my mind!” Perhaps so, but might it not have been better if you had thought it through first,

*“In a multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise”* (Proverbs 10:19).

### **“Bridling the Tongue” Even on Social Media (added)**

By David R. Ferguson

James 1:26 [NAS] says, *“If anyone thinks himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”* This isn’t just referring to what we say, it also refers to what we choose to post and share on social media. Pay attention to what we are saying. Our speech is one of the most important parts of our witness.

No matter where we are, at home, at work, at play, at church, or in any organization or group we decide to join, our tongue reveals what’s in our heart. In fact, an argument can be made that what one posts and shares on social media is even more egregious than what we say.

James also writes, *“So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body’s parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by Hell. For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no one among mankind can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”* (James 3:5-8 [NAS] Since the tongue is untamed, sometimes we say things we immediately regret saying. So, it’s worse to post vile and despicable things than it is to speak them because posting involves forethought. When we do so, we are making a conscience choice to say something that is intended to hurt others. It isn’t simply reactionary as can happen with the tongue.

The reason we react the way we do, however, is because of the condition of our heart. Remember, our Lord and Savior said, “For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart.” He then added, *“But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”* (Matthew 12:36-37 [NAS]) For Christians, we need to make doubly sure that we bridle our tongue and think twice before posting and sharing on social media. We must do all in our power to live our life for Jesus Christ, never forgetting that we *“were once darkness, but now [we] are light in the Lord; walk as children of light”* (Ephesians 5:8 [NAS]).

May God bless us as we serve Him!