

Thank you,...Barrett Hoffman
Speaker for today

ATTENTION
Business Meeting
Today at 2:30 p.m.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION
Sal Contino's phone number is
(760) 304-9111

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown
22 Elizabeth Medina 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

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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"***

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You

Excerpts from article By Jon Mitchell

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

This verse gives us several reasons why we sing in worship to God:

- It's a way the word of Christ dwells in us richly.
- It's a way that we as Christians teach and admonish each other in all wisdom.
- It's a way to show our heart-felt thankfulness to God.

I know it's easy for me to forget this as I sing in worship. I think a lot of us forget this. I think that's why musical worship has gotten so far removed from what God said in his Word that he would have it to be.

I have found that true worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24) requires discipline and self-control (Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 9:27). I have to make the conscious decision to focus on each and every sentence of every song. I have to

make the conscious decision that I'm going to ignore my own personal preferences about the choice of song, or how fast or slow the tempo is, or getting that tenor part exactly right. I have to make the conscious decision that my focus is going to be on giving God as much honor and reverence as I know how while I'm singing this song.

Guess what always happens as a result? I find myself being reminded of passages of Scripture as I sing certain lyrics. I find myself being taught and admonished to do better in certain aspects of my life as I sing a particular song. With other songs, I find myself filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for all that my Redeemer has done for me. Everything that God wants to happen as shown in Colossians 3:16 is taking place within me.

Blessed Blessings

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes the best way to define a word is to look at the word which stands in opposition to it. We use the words "blessed" or "blessing" so often and in so many ways that we lose track of their exact meaning. Take a moment and look at the words that are the opposite words—cursed and cursing.

Think of the emphasis the Bible gives to those who fail to find His favor and blessings and come under judgment. "The Lord is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalms 7:11). "Even his prayer is an abomination" (Proverbs 28:9) "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Hebrews 10:31. "*A certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries*" (Hebrews 10:27). This is the opposite of being blessed by God and finding favor in His sight. A simple definition of the word "blessed" is that it means "happy." But that word is too "simple" to see how magnificently blessed it is when we find His blessed favor.

The words of the song, "Blessed Assurance," were first published 150 years ago. The fact that it is so often sung today is evidence of how so many have rejoiced in the fact that we live under His favor and find great hope in Him. It was written by Fanny J. Crosby, who was blind from six weeks old. Mrs. Crosby wrote at least 4,000 hymns, possibly 8,000.

The first stanza of "Blessed Assurance" describes how wonderful it is to be His child. "Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!" It then looks at specific ways we are blessed—"heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood." Read these phrases again and think soberly about how they express the blessing of having His favor.

The second stanza speaks of the perfect delight which we have when we submit to Him and His control of our lives. It looks upward to see the rapturous blessings of vision depicted as angels descending from heaven to bring them. Two specific blessings are mentioned— "echoes of mercy" and "whispers of love."

The third stanza turns our hearts to the peace we have. "Perfect submission, all is at rest." In Christ, we are "happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love."

Is there any wonder why the chorus speaks of this blessed assurance being our story and our song? We are "praising my Savior all the day long."

There is so much depth in the meaning of songs which for centuries have stirred the hearts of others. They have become part of the "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" today. Think of the words of these songs and let them lift us upward toward heaven.
