

Thank you, Dion Hawkins ...
...for being our speaker for today!

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree
12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman
27 Isaiah Diaz

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
2 Corinthians 3:17

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

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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"*

Two Men Know They Are Saved

By Bill Hall

Two men "know" they are saved. The first man bases his assurance of salvation on his experience. He had been assured that when he completely turned his life over to Jesus Christ, accepted Him as personal Savior, and received Him into his heart, that an inner peace and feeling of well-being would sweep his soul; that he would be able to recognize that feeling when it came; and that this peace and feeling of well-being would be unmistakable evidence of his salvation. In keeping with that teaching he did "receive Jesus into his heart." He did feel this wonderful peace sweep his soul. And he "knows" that he is saved.

The second man's assurance is based on the promise of God. He had read in God's word, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). From other passages he had learned the necessity of repentance and confession of faith (Acts 2:38; 7:37; Romans 10:10). Trusting God's promise of salvation, he obeyed from the heart those commands (Romans 6:17), and has never doubted since that God forgave him of all his past sins, according to His promise.

The first man's assurance of salvation is based upon an unsure foundation. The Bible teaches neither the action he has taken nor the criterion he has accepted. We do not question his feelings; but we do question that such feelings are proof of salvation, for they are the product of his teaching. The cultist who has been taught certain gross practices in religion and has become the victim of his perverted leader will experience similar feelings. If the feelings of the latter are not sufficient proof of salvation, neither are the feelings of the former.

"But an angel appeared and spoke to me," someone may be thinking; or "I spoke in tongues." The Bible teaches, however, that even unusual, inexplicable occurrences in one's life cannot set aside the teaching of God's revealed word. Many who will be in hell will have said, "*Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils [demons]? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*" (Matthew 7:22). But all their experiences, even "miracles," will not substitute for their doing the Father's will as it is recorded in the scriptures (Matthew 7:21; see also Galatians 1:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Colossians 2:18,19).

The second man has based his assurance on a solid foundation. God's promises are sure. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). What He has promised He is able to perform (Romans 4:21). The person who obeys His commandments through truth in His promises can know, because God is faithful. "*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments*" (1 John 2:3).

We ask our readers, "Who really demonstrates strong faith in God: the one who simply trusts God's promises and finds assurance in His word or the one who must experience some overwhelming feeling that sweeps his soul?" God's judgment will be based, not on what we "know," but on His word. Be not deceived!

Too Much of a Good Thing

By Jay Launius

What is the one thing in life that I can't get enough of? It can be any number of things, like a favorite activity or eating a favorite food. Because we are so blessed, most of us can experience the enjoyment of over-indulgence and "pig out" on those best loved things. However, caution must be used when enjoying the good things in life lest they quickly become an addiction. "*Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit.*" (Proverbs 25:16) Yes, too much of a good thing can lead to harmful excessiveness and neglect of one's responsibilities.

The scriptures teach us that moderation is the key to a **well-balanced** life and too much of a good thing can lead to the sin. **Self-control** is listed among the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and in the Christian graces of 2 Peter 1:5-11. This passage goes on to say that the person who forgets to practice restraint is "short-sighted, even to blindness." The Apostle Paul said, "*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*" (1 Corinthians 6:12)

So, we must ask ourselves, "Have we let the good things in life over-power us instead of practicing them with some restraint?" "Have I neglected attendance to worship because of my favorite past time?" "Did I not read my bible because I was binge-watching my favorite show?" Moderation must be practiced in every aspect of the Christian's life, in work, in play, and yes, even in religion, remember the Pharisees? Remember, the last bite of ice cream in that carton will not be as good as the first.

"Watch out! Guard yourselves against every form of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15