

Thank you, David Washburn...
...for being our speaker for today!

August Birthdays

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

"Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those
mutilators of the flesh."
Philippians 3:2

Regular Meeting Times

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

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Indio Informer

Vol. 37 No. 33
August 16, 2026

*"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"*

Of Dogs, Pigs, And Pearls

By Wayne Greeson

Jesus came into this world to reveal and speak the Truth. Often the truth He spoke was painful. One of the more painful truths spoken by Christ is found in the Sermon on the Mount. *"Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you"* (Matt. 7:6).

Jesus paints a vivid picture of a cornered person confronted by a hungry pack of snarling dogs and vicious boars. In fear and desperation the person throws into the mud in front of the beasts his most valuable possession, a bag full of pearls. The animals lunge forward anticipating food for their bellies only to discover the precious pearls are hard and tasteless. In their anger, the entire pack of animals turn on the person before them and drag him down into the mud where they tear him to pieces.

To the Jews dogs and swine were unholy and unclean animals fit neither for sacrifice nor food. However, Jesus is not warning about animals but people! There are numerous places throughout the Bible where unfit and worthless

persons are called dogs or swine (See, 1 Sam. 17:43; 2 Sam. 16:9; 2 Ki. 8:13; 2 Pet. 2:18-22).

Jesus instructs His disciples not to waste the holy and precious instruction and rebuke of God's Word to those who are unfit and unworthy, for not only will they abuse and reject it, but they also abuse and reject you.

It is a sad but painful truth that there are those who lower themselves to the level of vicious snarling junkyard dogs and brutish boars in their rejection of God's wisdom. Get out of their way for if they have no respect for God or His Word they will certainly despise those who try to proclaim God's Truth. Jesus warns about such characters and teaches that we should be discriminating in our teaching and preaching lest we fall victim to them.

Solomon explained why one must be discriminating in whom he entrusts precious pearls of instruction and wisdom. He taught that "fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7) and a "scoffer does not love one who reproves him" (Prov. 15:12). Therefore, *"Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words"* (Prov. 23:9). Like Jesus, Solomon recommended a discriminating attitude toward those one tries to teach: *"He who reproves a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man gets himself a blemish. Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser. Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."* (Proverbs 9:7-9).

revealed about death. Because of this, fact is often confused with fiction, and speculation becomes the standard for what is truth instead of God's word.

The fact is the Bible just doesn't say as much as we would like it to say about death. Friends, let us be content with this: *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those*

things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29).

Conduct Unbecoming

By Jay Launius

The term "conduct unbecoming" is used to describe inappropriate or unethical behavior that goes against a standard of conduct. Although the term is most times recognized in relation to the military, it can be used to describe unacceptable behavior in official civilian or personal settings. When it comes to living the Christian life, the bible does not fall short in warning us about conduct unbecoming a child of God.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21, the Apostle Paul lists behaviors that are unbecoming of Christians. As we read these lists, we recognize these as the worst of the worst of personal traits. Even non-religious folks consider this behavior to be unacceptable. For the Christian to willingly participate in such conduct will cause forfeiture of God's forgiveness and prohibit one from inheriting the kingdom of God. (Heb. 10:26; Gal. 5:21) In a broad sense, worldly behavior is not Christian behavior. If a Christian routinely acts this way, then it is time for repentance and godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:10)

We are to be spiritually transformed and separate from the world. (Rom. 12:2) *"Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord."* (2 Cor. 6:17) As a matter of fact, that's exactly what we have done if we have obeyed the gospel message. *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."* (1 Cor. 6:11) Because God has saved us by His amazing grace, we are to do our best to be holy in all of our conduct. (1 Pet. 1:15)
