

**REMINDER...Business Meeting  
Today...2:30 p.m.**

**Thank you, Alexis Brown!  
Speaker for today**

**Reminders and Repetition are Good**

*“Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them and have been established in the truth which is present with you.” 2 Peter 1:12*

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**April Birthdays**

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson  
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson  
30 Aaron McCollum 30 Margaret Graddon

**April Anniversaries**

19 Bill & Kena Brown

**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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# **Indio Informer**

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**A String on Your Finger**

By Dan Jenkins

I am not sure where the idea originated, but it has been around for decades. If there was something really important you needed to remember, you were told to put a string (or ribbon) on your finger to remind you. I am sure other cultures may have similar figures of speech and times have changed in our world. More recently we talk about putting it on our calendar or putting a reminder on our cell phone.

It is remarkable that the Jews evidently did something very much like this. When Moses gave the law, he told the Jews to do two things to keep God’s word before them. They were to write them on the gates and doors of their houses or to write God’s words and put them in containers and wear these containers on their hands or around their heads, just above their eyes.

Moses said, “*You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your doors*” (Deuteronomy 6;8-9)—in the New Testament these containers or frontlets are called phylacteries—Matthew 23:5). They did not put strings on their fingers, they wore them before their eyes.

Evidently, they also wrote words on their hands. Have you not at some time or another used a pen to write important numbers or details on your hand when you could not find paper you might use? Isaiah indicates the Jews did this when he described how and where God wrote His message.

What was that message that was so important that He wrote it down on His hand? It was written in that part of Isaiah where he told the Jews that they were headed for captivity, and he then began to give a detailed description of the coming of the Messiah. When

they were in captivity, they might have felt that God had forgotten them. Such was not the case for after the captivity of the Messiah, the suffering Servant would come.

What was that message God wrote? Perhaps if we knew what He wrote it might help us know and understand our God even better. What was that message? Read these words slowly and carefully. *“Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands”* (Isaiah 49:16). God had written the name of His people on the palms of His hand!

God had not forgotten Israel, and He has not forgotten us! It was not a string on a finger—it was your name written on the palm of His hand. As I thought about all of this, I could not help but remember the words of Thomas about not believing in Jesus unless he saw the nail prints in His hand. As we think about the fact that God remembers us, look at the hands of Jesus. Figuratively, our name is beside those wounds in His hands!

## **Metamorphosis: To CHANGE**

By Bruce Evans

*“Let us examine and probe our ways and let us return to the Lord.”* (Lamentations 3:4). The appeal just noted points out that one should never be satisfied at simple examination; but probe the depth of the inner man.

The word probe involves investigation not just cursory examination. Sadly, most are content with a cursory examination; wanting to avoid what may be lurking just under the surface. For if what was lying under the surface came to light, one may very be forced with the need to change.

The need for change is a constant throughout the pages of the Scriptures. Romans 12:1-2 is an example of such a plea. *“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* The key word is “transformed”, which in

the Greek is metamorphosis. Digging a little deeper, one can find the definition of metamorphosis as being “a marked alteration in appearance, condition, character or function.” There are fifteen ways in which the word metamorphosis can be used, but all of them have at their core the central notion of “to become different”.

Mankind balks at change. William James wrote, “Man alone of all creatures of the earth, can change his own pattern. Man alone is the architect of his destiny. The greatest discovery in our generation is that human beings, by changing their inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.” All mankind has to do in order to discover how vital the change process is to mankind.

Positive change is difficult. It demands a moving out of one’s comfort zone but holds the promise of a bountiful reward. Without change, growth is impossible. A powerful lesson was discovered by Dr. Keith DeGreen, when observing conifer caterpillars. The inch long caterpillars would move around the food placed in their environment in a circle, with the food in the center. One following another they would move around the food, never changing. This was to their peril as one by one they died of starvation. Unwilling to break the cycle and move to the food, which was right there. How many of us have a like mind set? Some have even adopted a really ridiculous saying, “I’d rather die than change!”

Change should not be viewed as a threat. Moreover, it is opportunity to grow into the person that God would desire us to be. The process of self-examination and spiritual probing should serve as an apt motivator that will bring about the change process.

It is the individual who is seeking maturity that will upon introspection awaken to the need to change. Paul in the third chapter of Philippians writes about the changes he underwent. *“Brethren I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (13-14) There is indeed a tremendous prize that awaits; and it is one worthy of our being changed.