

**Thank you, again, Jason Guifarro**  
**Speaker for today**

**Baptized into Christ**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**  
**Calvin and Paige Cree**  
**Address: P.O. Box 21, Palm Desert**  
**Phone: 760) 250-1473**

**Attention**

**Business Meeting TODAY, June 9 at 2:30 p.m.**

**June Birthdays**

9 Debbie Pescador

**June Anniversaries**

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

# ***Indio Informer***

Vol. 35 No. 23

June 9, 2024

## **Obeying God's Commandments**

By Kevin Cauley

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).*

Obedience... answer the call with humility or pride?

Sin takes a toll on our thinking, and we must pay the price of ignorance by confessing that we don't understand many things. It is fortunate for us that God, in His mercy and love, understands this, and gives us clear commandments to follow in His word. There are some things that I simply do not need to understand to obey God's commandments. The only question that I need to answer is whether I am going to obey. This is the greatest struggle that we face as God's people; will it be our own will or God's will that we follow? We must obey God's commandments. If we love God, we will obey (1 John 5:2-3). Failure to obey is simply a lack of love for God in our life.

Sometimes, however, there are those who use God's commandments to elevate self. The Pharisees had this problem. They did not look at God's commandments as a way to improve their relationship with God, but rather, as a way to elevate themselves over their fellow man. This kind of "obedience" is deceptive because it isn't really obedience, it is haughtiness. The problem is the same problem as those who refuse to obey—they love self more than they love God. We learn that we must empty self if we are to obey God in the way God wants to be obeyed (Philippians 2:5-8).

Love God enough to study His word, learn His commands, and obey them, and be free of self.

**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**

***Church of Christ***  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

## Singing

Excerpts from article by [Brad Harrub](#)

Using our voices to praise God in song is an integral part of our worship to Him. Colossians 3:16 tells us, “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” Instruments were used in the Old Testament by the Israelites primarily in the temple. After the temple was destroyed, we have no record of followers of God using instrumental music until the 7th or 8th century A.D. Out of the 27 books in the New Testament, not a single one of them references any kind of musical instrument being used in worship to God.

A verse to remember is Ephesians 5:19-20. Writing to Christians, Paul says, “*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” God commands us to sing with our voices and make melody in our hearts.

### Relationship of Soul and Words of Songs

By Dan Jenkins

For the last several years I have tried to improve my worship in song by paying special attention to the words of the songs. While the musical notes are important and participating in four-part harmony singing is so rewarding, the focus in the Bible is on the relationship of my soul and my words.

Singing is described as “*...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*” ([Col. 3:16](#)). It is not that we are giving grace to Him, but we who have received His grace, sing with hearts filled with grace to Him.

A picture of this attitude toward Jesus is shown in Revelation chapter five. It describes how there is no creature in heaven or on

earth worthy to open the book in God’s hand. Then, the Lamb of God appears to take the sealed book and starts to open it.

At that moment the heaven of heavens is filled with anthems of praise to the Lord. The twenty-four elders get off their thrones and bow down in worshipping the Lord. They have bowls filled the prayers of His saints, and they ascend as incense to the Lamb. They begin to sing, “*You are worthy...*”

But it doesn’t stop at this point. Suddenly a host of angels joins in singing the same song. How many angels were there in this choir? “*The number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands*” (5:12). The very words of the song they sing are given. “*Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessings.*”

But it doesn’t stop there. Immediately every creature in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and under the sea, and all that is in heaven and earth become part of this chorus of praise to the Lord. “*Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!*”

But it doesn’t stop there. In 1930, Tillit S. Teddlie, a faithful brother in Christ and author of over 100 songs, penned the words to a song we used to sing more often, ***Worthy Art Thou***. It captures the events of this heavenly scene in the first two verses. He then added these words in the last verse. “Lord, may we come before Thee with singing, Filled with Thy Spirit, wisdom and pow’r, May we ascribe Thee glory and honor, Worthy art Thou, Worthy art Thou.”

It is not the musical notes that really matter. The early Christians may have sung this with singing characterized by chanting. We sing it in four-part harmony. It is not the music.

Let’s ask, what is our favorite song? Is it our favorite because of the musical arrangement or because of the spiritual depth and grace it creates in our heart as we sing to the Lord? Think about this.