

Thank you...Alexis Brown  
Speaker for today

### Worship

*"It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God,  
and him alone shall you serve.'"*

Luke 4:8

### 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](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

Preacher: Vacant

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# Indio Informer

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## The Word of God

By Dan C. Bailey

The word of God is God's revelation to mankind. God inspired men to write down His word. We read in II Timothy 3:14-15, *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* The apostle Paul had personally instructed Timothy. Timothy had the assurance that he was taught the truth. The scriptures are holy because they are from God, they are from heaven. We read again in II Timothy 3:16-17, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."* The word "inspired" means "God breathed." So when we read the Bible, study the Bible, or preach the Bible, we are reading, studying or preaching from an inspired book. If we do not reverence the word of God, then we do not reverence God.

There are many who do not give due diligence to the word of God. We are instructed in II Timothy 2:15, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* The word of God or the gospel, is God's power to save the lost. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Romans 1: 16). It is able to save our souls. *"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls"* (James 1:21).

If we are serious about living right and about going to heaven, we will be serious about studying and learning the word of God. Let us all come to our Bible study classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Each class that we attend will increase our knowledge of the word of God. It is God's inspired word! We must take it seriously! It is God's word that will judge us one day. *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48). That should prompt us to learn more about the word of God. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

### **Religious Experiences** By Joe Slater

Does having a "religious experience" save you (or prove that you are saved)? Some religious groups require one to relate a religious experience; then they decide whether that experience shows the person is saved and should be granted membership. How does this compare to the New Testament record?

In Acts 2, the Jews in Jerusalem definitely had a religious experience! *"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they (the 120) were sitting . . . And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language"* (2:2, 6). But even though it was supernatural, that "experience" didn't save anyone! When the apostles preached the gospel, 3000 believed and responded in repentance and immersion, thus receiving salvation.

Who can deny that Saul of Tarsus had a religious experience in Acts 9? *"Suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'"* (9:3-4). Contrary to popular belief, this experience didn't save Saul. God sent Ananias to tell him what to do; Saul *"arose and was baptized"* (9:18).

Cornelius certainly could lay claim to having a religious experience. An angel of God appeared, telling him to send for Peter (Acts 10:1-6). But that experience didn't save him! Peter told him *"words by which you and all your household will be saved"* (Acts 11:14). Cornelius and his household obeyed the gospel just like all the others (Acts 10:47-48).

Even if you had a supernatural experience today (which you won't), that wouldn't save you! *"Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!"* (Acts 22:16)

### **Holding Traditions** By Rob Albright

Paul told the church in Thessalonica to *"hold to the traditions which you were taught"* (2 Thessalonians 2:15). What traditions was he talking about?

It is important to know that there are two different kinds of traditions. HUMAN traditions can be good or bad. It depends on how you use them. A human tradition is just a way of doing something over a period of time. A human tradition is something that can be changed. Meeting together on Sunday at 11 A.M. can be changed to 10 A.M. without violating any Biblical teaching. The same can be said about the number of songs we sing in our assemblies and the number of prayers offered.

The other kind of tradition is DIVINE. This is the kind of tradition Paul was talking about in our text above. This is the kind of tradition that has been handed down through the generations by the inspired writers of the Bible. If we choose to change divine tradition we are disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6). Divine traditions teach us what God wants in His church.

So, following the traditions of the New Testament for our pattern for faith and practice is a good thing. Following the blueprint given by God for building our Christian life and worshiping God is a good thing.

Also, understanding the difference between and human tradition a divine tradition will go a long way in *"keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Ephesians 4:2).