

## Upcoming Events

**Business Meeting:** August 11 at 4:30 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Class:** August 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**Fall 2019 meeting:** Final Planning

**Panera Bread Open Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**Hebrews class** Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

## Mercy of God

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”* Ephesians 2:4-5.

## August Birthdays

2 Jaleen Letalu      4 Noah Perales      6 Gigi Zamarripa  
12 Debbie Hoffman    12 Lee McKnight    16 Nick Hoffman  
19 Keith Lovelady    25 Pat Limburg

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
Mike McKnight

### Church of Christ

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# Indio Informer

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## Throne of Grace

By Jon Mitchell

*“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:14-16

In the Old Testament, priests would approach God for worship and prayer after making sure that they were consecrated and clean from all physical blemishes (Leviticus 21:17ff). This foreshadowed the spiritual blessing that all Christians would receive, for we all are priests (1 Peter 2:9) who have been washed clean of our sins through baptism into Christ (Romans 6:1-5; Acts 22:16) and who are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ as we walk in the light (1 John 1:7-9). As a result, we too can confidently draw near to God’s throne through prayerful worship. What an honor!



*The blood of Christ freely given allows mankind  
the access to stand holy before God.*

We enjoy this privilege because of our high priest, Jesus Christ. He ascended through the heavens to sit at the right hand of God after offering Himself upon the cross. (Hebrews 7:26-27; 9:24; cf. Mark 16:19). He sympathizes with our struggle

against sin, because He too was tempted in all the ways in which we are tempted...yet never gave into those temptations (1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5). This is why He is a high priest who is merciful to us and faithful to help us (Hebrews 2:17-18), willing and able to save those who come to God through Him and make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:24-25).

Another reason we can approach God's throne is because it is a throne of mercy and grace, as well as righteousness and justice (Psalms 89:14). We have no need to be afraid to penitently come to God in prayer, for God is a God of mercy and forgiveness to those who truly seek Him. Granted, willful sinners who are rebelliously unrepentant will find no mercy on that final day (Hebrews 10:26-31), but those of us who are humble and sorrowful over our sins and have washed them away through baptism into Jesus will find nothing but God's forgiveness. Praise Him for that!

### **How comforting is this?**

*"He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Hebrews 13:5*

## **HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN KNOW WHEN I REPENT AND PRAY THAT I HAVE TRULY BEEN FORGIVEN?**

By Robert Notgrass

Well, we must put our trust in the Word of God as little children. John said, *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"* (1 John 2:1) An advocate is one who pleads the case of another. This is what Jesus Christ does for us in the presence of the Father. Just before this verse, John assures us in chapter one that if we walk in the (the light of God's Word), the blood of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, cleanses us from all sin (vs. 7). In vs. 8, we are told that all people sin, but *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (vs.

9). This verse clearly tells us that Christ will not fail us because He is faithful. This simply means that when we confess our sins, turn from them in repentance and pray to the Father through the Son, that forgiveness is guaranteed and granted in full measure! The sins are gone completely and God will remember them no more which is mentioned by the Hebrew writer (Hebrews 10:17).

Now, at this point, we need to follow the example of the apostle Paul. He said *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14.) So then, we need to forget what sins we have repented of and press on! To press on means to walk in the light! It means to serve our Lord with all of our strength. And if we do this, our thoughts will be turned from sin and will be focused on our Lord and what we can do for others in His service. Therefore, do not dwell on that which we have repented of because that gives place to the devil to tempt us again (Ephesians 4:27).

Now occasionally, Christians will fear attending worship because of distress over sins. But, God wants all of us to never forsake the assembling of the church because it is a sin (Hebrews 10:25). Yet, it is during the assembling that: We gain strength and are edified. It is a time to provoke one another unto love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). It is a time when we are spiritually fed the Word of God, without which one would die spiritually.

So, if one has turned from their sins and prayed to God through Christ for forgiveness, it is done. The Hebrew writer said, *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* (Hebrews 13:5) Nothing can separate us from His love. Paul said, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:37-39)