

Indio Informer

Vol. 29 No. 5

February 4, 2018

God Delights in Mercy

(Part Two of Two)

A God Who Stays: Trophies of God's Grace God never gives up on us—even if we give up on ourselves. He is eternally optimistic that we will come back. He stays to help us through the long maze of a journey from earth to heaven. Take to heart His promise: *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Hebrews 13:5; cf. Matthew 28:20).

How do we know God will give us another chance? He has a great track record in that department. You could say that the Bible is a “trophy case” that contains the greatest feats of grace the earth saw in its first four thousand years. Each story is a remarkable reminder that God gives second chances.

- God took a cowardly liar named Abraham and made him the father of the faithful (Genesis 12–20; 18:19; Romans 4:16; James 2:21).
- He made a deceiver named Jacob the cornerstone of a holy nation (Genesis 27; 46:8–26).
- He turned an eighty-year-old murderer named Moses into one of the greatest leaders the world has ever seen (Exodus 2:11–14; 5:1).
- He used a murdering adulterer named David to write songs that would strengthen and encourage His people for three thousand years (2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 23).
- He took a self-pitying, despairing prophet named Elijah and salvaged him for great works of service (1 Kings 19).
- He made a hate-filled prophet named Jonah a successful missionary to the world's then greatest city (Jonah 3:5–10).

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: next Sunday, February 11 at 4:30 p.m.

Workday: prep for Saturday meeting, February 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bible Class: February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Last Saturday in February Meeting: February 24

Barnabas Group Meeting: February 27

God's Mercy

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

1 Peter 1:3-4

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike & Morgie McKnight

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

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- He took a woman who had been divorced five times and who was living with a sixth man and used her to bring a city to the Savior's feet (John 4:15–30).
- He honored a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus with an in-home visit and a place in the book read by all generations (Luke 19:5–8).
- He tapped an arrogant fisherman named Peter who cursed and denied His Son the night He most needed Him to be the keynote speaker in the greatest revival the world has ever seen (Mark 16:7; John 21:15–17; cf. Acts 2).
- He commissioned a disappointing young man named John Mark who left Paul in a lurch to write one of the four greatest books ever written (and possibly the most read of all time—since it is the shortest of Christ's biographies) (Acts 13:13).
- He gave a man named Paul a second chance who had before done everything within his power—legal action, character assassination, deprivation of human rights, verbal/physical abuse—to destroy Christ's church and dishearten God's children (1 Timothy 1:13–16).

All of God's success stories are not told in Scripture. God takes people from unusual failures to amazing successes all the time. Many will happen this week. Could He right now be making a space for me in His trophy case? What would I do with a second chance? We are about to find out . . .

The Grace of God

By Aaron Veyon

The terms “grace” and “mercy” are special words to us, aren't they? Just to say them aloud is sweet and soothing to the ears. These two terms, though different in meaning, are so compatible that we can hardly say the one without mentioning the other. They are as twin brothers, as one preacher put it. “Grace” is often defined as “unmerited favor;” whereas “mercy” basically means “compassion.” But more to the point, “grace” is receiving something that we do not deserve (i.e., salvation); whereas “mercy” is not receiving something that we do deserve (i.e., condemnation). The concept of grace does not mean that all men

will be saved, for not all will be (Mt. 7:13-14, 21-23). Nor does it mean that no works are needed, for “*faith without works is dead*” (Jas. 2:14-26; 1:22-25). Nor does it mean that we may continue in sin without fear of eternal punishment (Rom. 6:1-2, 12, 23).

Though “the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men” (Tit. 2:11), not all will receive it. Imagine a wealthy man having compassion on a poor, homeless man, in his impoverished and despicable condition, and deciding to do something to save him. The poor man doesn't deserve the rich man's help (he's done nothing to earn it), yet the offer is there. The rich man offers to take the poor man and get him cleaned up and to give him a job and a place to live. If the poor man takes him up on his offer, then (and only then) is he saved (from his plight) by grace. If he does not take up the rich man's offer, he forfeits grace and cannot benefit from it at all. You see, all because mercy and grace was shown toward the poor man doesn't mean he was automatically saved from his predicament. He has to be willing to receive it. And if the poor man did accept the offer, but then turned back to his miserable lifestyle, he would no longer receive the rich man's act of grace.

The same is true spiritually, friends. God offers to give us something we neither can earn nor obtain on our own. If we will do what He tells us, we will be saved by grace (Tit. 2:11-14). If we will not, or if we turn back, we forfeit His grace (Gal. 5:1-4). Can we see the difference, friends?

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NASB)

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* (emphasis, JB)