

## Upcoming Events

Austin Watts (Winnetka Ave) will preach on January 19  
Budget preparations for 2020  
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and thank you, Mitch Brown!

### Trust in God

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”* Proverbs 3:5-6

*“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”*  
Isaiah 41:10

### January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

#### 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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# Indio Informer

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## The Lord's Way Is Best

By Joe Slater

Words like submit and obey rub many people's fur the wrong way. Let's face it – the fleshly part of us balks at the idea of yielding to the will of another. No wonder Frank Sinatra's best-seller "My Way" is one of the most often-requested songs at funerals!

Even we who have pledged our obedience to God sometimes object when His word tells us to submit and obey other people. For example, when Colossians 3:18 instructs wives to "*submit to your own husbands,*" what picture comes to your mind? Is it the stereotypical cave man with a club in one hand, dragging around his poor, bedraggled, passive wife by her hair with his other hand? That's not Biblical submission! Just look at the rest of the sentence and the one following. A wife's submission to her husband is "*fitting in the Lord.*" And husbands are to love their wives and not be bitter toward them (3:18-19).

The same pattern holds true for children and parents (vv. 20-21). Children are to obey their parents. Why? Because "*this is well-pleasing to the Lord.*" But fathers are commanded not to provoke their children, lest they become discouraged.

Paul also told slaves to obey their fleshly masters in all things (3:22-24). Why? Because by doing so, "*you serve the Lord Christ*" (v. 24). Therefore, they were to serve with heart-felt sincerity and reverence for God at all times, not just when the master was looking. And masters were also commanded to be just and fair with their servants, knowing that the Heavenly Master will punish those earthly masters who are abusive (3:25 – 4:1).

Let us abandon false, stereotypical ideas about submission and obedience. The Lord's way is best!

## Standing Firm in the Lord

By David R. Ferguson

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:13 [NASB], *“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”*

Stand firm. Thirteen times this phrase appears in the New Testament. Twelve times it was written by Paul, and the other one by the Apostle Peter.

I imagine there are many people today who will be offended by such a statement as *“stand firm in the faith”* and *“act like men.”* But the truth is the Holy Spirit of God, Who inspired Paul to write these words, isn't interested at all in politically correct speech or thought. He isn't concerned about whether or not someone's feelings or sensibilities are offended. What He is concerned about, however, is the condition and salvation of our souls.

You see, Jesus wants soldiers in His army. He wants people to be committed truly to Him, and He expects men to be men. Paul also writes, *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”* (2 Timothy 2:1-4 [NASB])

Jesus doesn't want fickle people in His service. He doesn't want people, especially men, to leave Him just because the going gets a little bit rough. This is why He Himself said, *“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:62 [NASB]).

Standing firm in the faith and standing fast in the grace of God are key to maintaining one's salvation. Paul reminded Timothy, *“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you”* (1 Timothy 4:16 [NASB]).

Finally, James, the Lord's brother, tells his readers that the ultimate prize awaits all who stand firm to the end. He writes, *“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved,*

*he will receive the Crown of Life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”* (James 1:12 [NASB]).

Stand firm, be alert and on the watch, act like men, and be strong in all that you do, regardless of the slings and arrows which our great enemy Satan fires in our direction throughout our service to the Lord in His army. The Lord WILL reward us with eternal life for our faithfulness to Him!

## Times Have Changed

By A. C. Quinn

"Times have changed" is a common refrain from those who find themselves in contradiction with the Word of God. This happens especially when moral standards are involved.

First of all, one might question what folks mean when they say "Times have changed." Are they talking about a changing culture? Are they talking about changing attitudes—one's view of the world? It is most likely the latter.

The idea that times have changed seems to indicate to many folks that somehow God's standards have changed with regards to the sanctity of marriage, sexual improprieties, and myriads of other sins. There is a fundamental truth that is lost in this thinking which leads many to lives of sin: *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law”* (I John 3:4). Clearly, sin is sin, regardless how much human attitudes may change. Not only so, neither God nor his Word changes: *“For I am the Lord, I change not...”* (Malachi 3:6); *“God is not man, that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”* (Numbers 23:19); *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matthew 24:34).

It is certain that there will be the judgment day coming. Sadly, for many, what people think will not be the standard. Jesus said, *“He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge hm in the last day”* (John 12:48).