

## Upcoming Events

**Business Meeting:** Today at 4:30 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Class:** July 21 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.

## Quotations from “Ordinary People” about Perseverance

*“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.”* - Walter Elliot -

*“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”* – Benjamin Franklin

*“Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.”*  
– Thomas Carlyle

## July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

### 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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## PERSEVERANCE

### Advancing Age and Weary Saints

By Dan Jenkins

It is so difficult for us to imagine the following events happening. Think about a boxer who had thrashed his opponent in every round and is far ahead on the scoring cards of all the judges, then he refuses to fight the last round. Think about a marathon runner who has spent years in training for the Olympics and is far ahead of all other competitors in the final race, then she simply stops one hundred feet short of the finish line, refusing to finish the race.

NEVER EVER  
EVER  
GIVE UP!



*Weary from life? Eternity is longer. Finish the Race.*

Your response would be, “Such could never happen,” but almost all of us have seen people doing this spiritually. Far too many Christians draw back in their devotion to the Master in their later years. They were faithful to the Lord for many years, but for unexplained reasons they quit. Look at the following words from heaven encouraging us to never quit.

Jesus spoke to the church at Smyrna and told them, *“Be faithful until death”* (Revelation 2:10), and then gave the motivation for faithfulness—*“...and I will give you the crown of life.”* We must run the entire race and never think about stopping short of the finish.

Jesus said, *“He who endures to the end shall be saved”* (Matthew 24:11). These words are surrounded by descriptions of adversity—famine, earthquakes, lawlessness, wars and false prophets. They describe the worst tribulation of all times which His disciples would soon face. His message? Do not give up! Endure! Endure to the end! Regardless of what it costs, finish the race!

Paul repeatedly urged Christians to endure whatever may come for the reward awaiting them is so great. *“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Pay special notice to the contrast he makes between the labor and the reward. *“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Romans 8:18).

The writer of Hebrews described the end of those who give up. *“We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of our souls”* (Hebrews 10:39). The reason we cannot give up? Because Jesus, our forerunner, waits in heaven to give us eternal rest (Hebrews 4:11; 6:19-20). Keep our focus on all that awaits us. The events of the past do not really matter! What matters is that which lies ahead! Don't give up!

Make application of this to our life. As long as God gives us breath, give ourselves to Him even, though advancing years rob you of the energy we once had. Be determined that the zeal which burned in our heart to serve Him when we were baptized will be the zeal we have at our final breath.

## **The Best of...**

By Russ Lawson

Have you seen the music albums, book collections that they are making now titled, "The Best of ." and then some artist is named. This is supposed to be an album or collection where they have compiled the best music, the best stories (or whatever) that this person has done.

I was thinking about that concept the other night and wondering how that might apply to my own life (or maybe yours). What if we were asked to recount the "Best of our lives?" Now stop and think for a minute about that question. Just what would we list as the best things we have done in our life? For me I'm not sure just what that would be, but I know it would not be the times I lost my temper, the times I lost patience with someone. It would not be the times my faith was weak or my example even weaker. I like to think that "The best of my life" would be the times I was most like Christ (as few as they may be). Paul writes that we are to *"have the mind of Christ,"* Philippians 2:5. Paul goes on to recount the unselfish nature of Christ's life here on earth, His willingness to give up everything so that mankind might be saved.

Let me encourage us this week, not to worry about doing some great deed, or what might have been the best of our life in the past, but what will be our best today, each day. Live one day at a time for Christ and our life will all be "The Best of."

Paul also said in Philippians 3:13-14 *"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

You see, we might be tempted to dwell on "The Worst of ." our life. But God doesn't want us to do that. The writer of Hebrews 12:2 gives us an idea of how refrain from doing this, when he talks of, *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."* So this week, look to Jesus and we will be the best you can be.

May God make all of your days, "The Best!"