

## Upcoming Events...

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** July 15

**Barnabas Group Meeting:** July 24

### Why it doesn't matter what you believe if it's not true: is there Absolute Truth?

By Stephen McAndrew

"The reason many are loathe to acknowledge the possibility of absolute truth is not simply because they do not wish to accept the possibility of the **existence** of an all-powerful, all-knowing deity. It is because they do not want to accept the **consequences** that follow from the existence of an all-powerful, all-knowing deity as the source of absolute moral truth."

### 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

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# Indio Informer

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## The Storms of Life

By Roy A. Crutcher

*"For affliction does not come from the dust, neither does trouble sprout from the ground, for man is born for trouble as sparks fly upward.." Job 5:6-7 (NAS)*

Man lives in a world filled with troubles as is indicated in the above passage. Because man lives in a trouble filled world, he will naturally encounter troubles, obstacles, etc., of various kinds from time to time. Even Christians are not immune to such problems. As Christians we do have some special blessings from God. Likewise, God cares for His own in a special way. Unfortunately, though, we are not immune to all the problems of life. And, when problems arise in our lives, we usually tend to think that our troubles are worse than anyone else's is. But, as Christians, we are admonished to *"think so as to have sound judgment."* (Romans 12:3). Sound judgment tells us that usually there is always someone worse off than we are. I am reminded of the poem that tells of the man who complained because he had no shoes until he saw a man who had no feet. Several examples are mentioned in the poem, each concluding with, "Lord forgive me when I whine."

I read, some time back, of some devastating cyclones, which had hit India. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ lost everything. One brother lost his wife, two children and his parents. Another lost his wife, four children, five grandchildren, his mother - a total of 31 family members (16 were members of the Lord's church). This kind of devastation puts us in mind of Job as described in chapter one. But Job survived, and so can we. Regardless of the extremity of any problems you might be facing, rather than feeling sorry for yourself, just remember a few basic facts: Others have worse problems; things could be worse; usually the good in our lives outweighs the bad; count the blessings that we do have.

In every tragedy we can look at what we've lost and be hateful, or we can look at what we have left and be grateful. May God help us to have a grateful, trusting disposition regardless of our station in life.

### **Can a Gift Have Conditions?**

by: Lawrence Barr

Recently I was having a discussion with a friend about the wonderful gift of salvation that God has purchased for us by the sacrifice of Jesus' death. I asked him if he thought a gift would still be a gift if there were conditions attached. He replied, "No, it would not be a gift." I posed a scenario whereby a rich friend offered to give him a car if he would meet him the next morning at 7:00 at a certain place in town. I asked, "Would you get the car if you didn't show up?" He said, "No, of course not." I then asked, "If you went and got the car, would it be a gift or not?" Then he saw the point. Of course it would be a gift. In no way does a condition mean we earn what would otherwise be a gift.

So why is it that when Jesus and his apostles attach the condition of faith and baptism to salvation (see Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38 for starters) that many begin to cry, "That's works salvation, not grace!"? I would truly like to learn how, when I was baptized, I did any work at all. Do you know? Instead, when I believed in Jesus and was baptized (by someone else) into Him, I was surrendering to His marvelous grace! Have you surrendered?

### **Did God Make Everything?**

Author Unknown

The college professor challenged the class with this question: "Did God make everything there is?" One student bravely answered, "Yes!" "Everything, young man?" "Yes, He did, sir," the young man replied. The professor responded, "If God made everything, then God made evil, and we can only create from within ourselves, then God is evil." The student did not have a response, and the professor was happy to have once again proved the Christian faith a myth.

Then another man raised his hand and asked, "May I ask you something, sir?" "Yes, you may," responded the professor. The man stood up and said, "Sir, is there such a thing as dark?" The professor responded, "Of course there is." The student replied, "Actually, sir, darkness does not exist. Darkness is really only the absence of light. Darkness is only a term developed to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the man asked, "Sir, is there such a thing as evil?" The professor responded, "Of course. We have rapes, murders, and violence everywhere in the world. Those things are evil." The student replied, "Actually, sir, evil does not exist. Evil is simply the absence of God. Evil is a term man developed to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. It isn't like truth, or love, which exist as the virtue of light. Evil is simply the state where God is not present, like darkness without light."

The professor had nothing to say.

### **Does Every Person Have A Right to His Own Belief?**

By Mel Martin

If what we mean by this is, "Does every person have the freedom to choose to be lost and burn in hell," the answer is yes. Man does have freedom of choice. But if we mean by this, "Does every person have the right to believe whatever he wants and God not care"; the answer is NO.

It is frightening how many times I have heard good loving people who are trying to avert confrontation say, "It doesn't make any difference what you believe." This kind of statement undermines God's eternal purpose for us. Though this kind of statement may soothe, appease, and cool down heated discussions about Bible teachings, it will not cool down the fires of hell after judgment.

It is clear that we all have freedom of choice, but with eternity in mind, and understanding that only God determines the terms of entry into heaven, we cannot choose what we are going to believe in order to get to heaven.