

## Upcoming Events

Plan Congregational Meeting: Financial Report  
Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021  
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBA

### Perseverance

*“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”* Galatians 6:9

*“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* Hebrews 12:1

*“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.”* Hebrews 10:36

# Indio Informer

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## The Comfort of God

By Dan Jenkins

Who has not in their lifetime had those dark and trying periods when hope was almost gone? What congregation has not experienced anxiety as turmoil developed between brethren? Evidently, the church at Rome was dealing with all kinds of problems—there were false teachers seeking to Judaize the Gentiles by demanding that they must be circumcised to enter heaven. There was also strife between brothers where the stronger brothers had little compassion for those who were weaker.

How did God address such turmoil? When Paul gets to the fifteen chapter of Romans, he utters this prayer. *“May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like minded toward one another...that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (15:5-6). How did Paul see that turmoil coming to an end? He turned to God—the One who gives both comfort and patient endurance.

This is where true comfort is found. Paul described God as the God of all comfort, and then said that He *“...comforts us in all our troubles”* (2 Cor. 1:5-6). Pay special attention to that three-letter word in this passage. God is not just the One who sometimes comforts us in certain situations—He is the God of **all** comfort in **all** our trials.

How does God give us comfort? Look again at Romans chapter fifteen. It is in verse five where God is described as the God of comfort and patience. Look at verse four. *“For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*

To whom do we turn for comfort? It is to God. To where do we turn? It is the Scriptures the God of comfort has given us. We have experienced this in those dark times when we walked through deep

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

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valleys, like the valley of the shadow of death. Our soul found relief at such times, and we sang the song given by David. *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me”* (Psa. 23:3). We sang the psalm and the words from the God of all comfort lifted our soul.

It is not just in those Old Testament passages where comfort is found. When those in Thessalonica were concerned about those brethren who had died, the God of comfort gave His word to them and then added, *“Wherefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thess. 4:18).

So, the next time clouds arise, and darkness prevails, let’s pick up our Bible. Read the comforting words from the God of all comfort. Meditate on what He says to us, and these words of comfort will bring hope in the midst of the deepest despair.

### **Miserable Friends**

By Tim Dooley

I feel for Job who, when he needed comfort and compassion, got what was anything but. He rebukes his friends and goes on to express his utter feeling of abandonment and helplessness.

As Christians we need to remember that being obedient to God and standing for the truth does not necessitate a rude, ugly, or insensitive spirit. In fact, we are to always respond with love and kindness. One can certainly rebuke another in love, discipline with compassion, and counsel with sensitivity. Peter said that as Christians we should have *“compassion for one another; love as brothers,”* and *“be tenderhearted, be courteous”* (1 Peter 3:8).

Not every “friend” will be the kind of friend we need, but the Lord will! And as we will see, *“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). Be a true friend to someone today and be faithful!

### **Enduring Trials**

By David R. Ferguson

Some of the hardest things for parents to do is watch as their child is slighted. But what is even harder for parents to do is watch their child get slighted and keep their mouths shut about it.

Yes, this is a test that is hard to endure, but the Lord does promise rewards for those who follow after His righteousness. These times do make for excellent teaching opportunities, and there is hardly any better book to turn to and receive instruction in bearing all things with patience than is the Book of James. This general epistle was written by James, the Lord’s brother, who ended up being a leader of the church in Jerusalem. His epistle focuses on warning his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that all Christians will suffer trials, so do not be surprised when this happens to you. *“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,”* writes James (James 1:12 [NAS]). This is a great promise of encouragement to all Christians, indeed! But then James is quick to point out in the very next three verses, *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”* (James 1:13-15 [NAS])

James reminded his readers that it is our own sin that convicts us, and it is our own sinful demise that brings about the punishment we deserve, which is death. As the Apostle Paul also stated, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23 [NAS]).

So the next time life throws us or our children a curveball and we go down swinging, just remember to take the advice of James: *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (James 1:2-4 [NAS])