

## Upcoming Events

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** Today at 4:00 p.m.

**Memorial Day:** May 27

**Panera Bread Open Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**Hebrews class** Mondays at 10:00

## Quotes about Circumstances

*“The circumstances we ask God to change are often the circumstances God is using to change us”.* - Max Lucado -

*“We can let the circumstances of our lives harden us so that we become increasingly resentful and afraid, or we can let them soften us, and make us kinder. We always have the choice.”*

Dalai Lama

## May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff

15 Kena Brown

### 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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## 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 (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). Nor does it mean that no works are needed, for *“faith without works is dead”* (James 2:14-26; 1:22-25). Nor does it mean that we may continue in sin without fear of eternal punishment (Romans 6:1-2, 12, 23).

Though *“the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men”* (Titus 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 were 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 (Titus 2:11-14). If we will not, or if we turn back, we forfeit His grace (Galatians 5:1-4). Can we see the difference, friends?

### **John Newton's story behind "Amazing Grace"**

The Greyhound had been thrashing about in the north Atlantic storm for over a week. Its canvas sails were ripped, and the wood on one side of the ship had been torn away and splintered. The sailors had little hope of survival, but they mechanically worked the pumps, trying to keep the vessel afloat. On the eleventh day of the storm, sailor John Newton was too exhausted to pump, so he was tied to the helm and tried to hold the ship to its course. From one o'clock until midnight he was at the helm.

With the storm raging fiercely, Newton had time to think. His life seemed as ruined and wrecked as the battered ship he was trying to steer through the storm. Since the age of eleven he had lived a life at sea. Sailors were not noted for the refinement of their manners, but Newton had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and debauchery which even shocked many a sailor.

John Newton had rejected his mother's teachings and had led other sailors into unbelief. Certainly, he was beyond hope and beyond

saving, even if the Scriptures were true. Yet, Newton's thoughts began to turn to Christ. He found a New Testament and began to read. Luke 11:13 seemed to assure him that God might still hear him: *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."*

That day at the helm, March 21, 1748, was a day Newton remembered ever after, for "On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." Many years later, as an old man, Newton wrote in his diary of March 21, 1805: "Not well able to write; but I endeavor to observe the return of this day with humiliation, prayer, and praise." Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life.

Used with permission from [John Newton Discovered](#)  
[Amazing Grace](#) @Christianity.com

### **Serenity Prayer**

By Reinhold Niebuhr  
(1892–1971)

*God grant me the Serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And the Wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time.  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would like it.*

*Trusting that He will make all things right,  
If I surrender to His will.  
That I may be reasonably happy in this world  
And supremely happy in the next.*