

## Upcoming Events

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

**Budget preparations** for 2020

**Thanksgiving Day:** November 21

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

**Hebrews class** Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

## Proverbs 3:5-7

*“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. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”*

## November Birthdays

2 Mike Atkins      6 Ashley Tanner      10 Daniel Brown  
18 Emilia Letalu      27 Lupita Guzman

## November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

### 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

Vol. 30 No. 46

November 17, 2019

## What About Sickness, Death, & Suffering?

By Doug Dingley

Sin, sickness, death and suffering were never a part of God’s desire for His human creation. In the beginning, He created a beautiful garden that was completely free from all of those horrific evils. Indeed, it was very good (Genesis 1). It was so good, so perfect, and so pristine in fact, that the pure and sinless, eternal God and Creator of the entire universe walked freely therein, along with His beloved creation (Genesis 3:8).

But although God so loved and provided them with every possible blessing they would ever need in order for them to remain eternally joyful, fulfilled, and sin, sickness, death and sorrow free, true love is always a choice. Thus God, in His great and infinite wisdom, knew He must allow His beloved and much-blessed creation to make their own choice, as to whether or not they wanted to truly love Him in return. Did they truly love Him enough to trust Him, and hence trust Him enough to obey and remain loyal to Him, or not? That was the test, the choice, the decision and the question, which He knew He must allow them to fully and freely make and answer for themselves. So; God stood back, allowed the devil to make his play, and Adam and Eve to make their choice (Genesis 3). As we know, it was an epic fail. They chose to love, trust, listen to and obey Satan, instead of their Lord God and Creator. Hence, sin, sickness, death and suffering entered the world as a result, driving a deep wedge of division between their pure and sinless Creator, and His now unholy and sin-stained creation (Genesis 3:22-24; Isaiah 59:1-2).

But even then – despite their lack of love for, trust in, and obedience to their almighty and all-loving God and Creator – He did not stop loving them... not for one moment. Despite the fact that due to their own chosen disobedience they would now have to live in a world far less wonderful and much more painful than He had ever planned, purposed, or wanted for them in the first place, He promised His now-fallen and sin-stained creation that He had a plan in place to give them yet another chance to be with Him forever (Genesis 3:15), if they would but simply choose to love, listen to, and trust and obey Him this time.

Each and every day, we are given the same exact choice as Adam and Eve were. God still loves and provides for us more than we can ever imagine (John 3:16; Romans 8:28-32). And so, the question is not, does God love us, but do we love God – according to His definition? Jesus said, *“If you love Me, you will obey My commandments”* (John 14:15; see verses 21-24). Do we love Him, enough to listen to and obey, only Him (Matthew 4:10)? Have we obeyed the gospel – God’s commandment to be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Acts 2:38)? Are we daily listening to, learning of, and walking in, obedience to and with the Lord our God? Or, are we choosing to love, trust, listen to and live for someone else, resulting in eternally more death and suffering?

## **Dealing with The Unexpected**

By David Ferguson

Many are dealing with unexpected surprises and sorrows in life. It is human nature to desire to control what is happening in our lives, but there will always be things happening to us over which we are simply powerless. These are the times in which our faith must sustain us regardless of our obstacles. These are the times in which we must turn our lives over to God, and trust in Him fully to provide for us, and comfort us, as only He can do.

None of us is immune from tragedy. We need to prepare ourselves for the unexpected events that await us, both great and small, and we can do so by spending time in God's word, and by increasing our prayer life. Just as the body needs food to enable us to live healthy physical lives, so too, our spirits need a daily diet of spiritual nourishment that only comes from an intimate knowledge of God's word. It is this intimate knowledge of our Father that will give us the *“peace that passeth understanding”* and *“shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:7).

We have a victorious Savior in our corner acting in our behalf. The pain we bear was borne by Him at Calvary. He knows us, and He knows what is best for us. Turn to Him and He shall comfort us, for it is in Him that our victory is maintained. Keep our mind focused on Him. There is nothing in our life that is bigger than Christ, if we will simply turn it over to Him.

Worrying over that in which we have no control has a debilitating effect by distracting us from that over which we do maintain control. There are many brothers and sisters in Christ who love us and care greatly about us, even more than we ever know. Turn to them, and allow them to help bear our burdens, *“and so fulfill the law of Christ,”* (Galatians 6:2).

The choice is ours, and ours alone. No one can take that from us. We can either let our burdens be a discouragement and a hindrance to our spiritual growth, or we can take control by choosing to exercise our faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ, regardless of what Satan tosses our way, and find ourselves even closer to God our Father. He loves us! In fact, He loves us so much that He gave us His very own Son to bring us back to Him even when we had willfully walked away from Him! That is how much He loves us!

Think about it.