

**Upcoming Events...**  
**Galatians Class:** Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.  
**Labor Day:** September 4  
**Business Meeting:** Today at 4:30 p.m.  
**Ladies Bible Class:** Today at 4:00 p.m.  
**Barnabas Group Meeting:** September 25

**Part of the Ultimate Reward**

*“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away.”*  
 (Revelation 21:4)

**September Birthdays**

2 Linda McGraw    3 Wendy Cortes    11 Marie Burruss  
 15 Marcos Perales    16 Jim Burruss    24 Mason Perales  
 30 Dortha Gentry    30 Kurt Hoffman

**September Anniversaries**

13 Wendy & Luis Cortes

# Indio Informer

Vol. 29 No. 36

September 9, 2018

**Suffering? Don't Give Up!**

By Robert Notgrass

There is not a single person that has not endured human suffering. It seems that some people go through more than their share of suffering, but such is the normalcy of life. Many of us have witnessed someone cry out, “Why me, God!” And because of inadequate answers to their cry, human suffering wrecked their faith. These are real people needing real answers to real problems! God does not exempt us from the problems of human suffering simply because we are his children. How ironic it is to hear Christians express the opinion that we should be immune to pain or suffering. Yet, God does promise a way to endure and bear-up under troubles that drive us to the edge. During troubled hours, we can have hope. (2 Corinthians 3:12).

The world does not understand the meaning or the purpose of life. The world thinks that hedonism, which is, “The pursuit that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life” is the only way to live. Yet, Christians can be comforted and depend on God, “*For in him we live, and move, and have our being;*” (1 John 2:15). However, too often we hear the phrases, “Whatever makes me happy” or “whatever makes the majority happy” is the single pursuit of humanity. This and the world’s meaning of life brings a shallow definition of life and human suffering.

However, the Bible, the inspired word of God, teaches the true meaning of life. God said, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The Bible affirms that as long as we follow Him, we will never, never be alone. First, we are not alone because Christians are to “*Bear ye one another’s burdens*”, (Galatians 6:2). Secondly, we cannot be alone because

**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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the Great God in Heaven is the *“Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble”* (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

How glorious it is to have great support from Christians and God and such comfort in the holy scriptures when our faith is tried! We know that when our faith is tested by the world, we can be comforted that our triumphant victory over such things will be found as praise and honor and glory to Christ (1 Peter 1:7). Also, prayer to God is a comforting time for Christians. It allows us all to know that someone is listening and cares for us. God has always been here for us and even though we may be tried or suffer in life, one glorious day *“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away.”* (Revelation 21:4)

### **The Suffering of the Righteous**

By Tim Dooley

When we are suffering, it is common nature for us to ask, “Why?” (Psalm 73). “Why is this happening?” “Why won’t it go away?” “Why did God allow this to happen to me?” Sadder even are those who, on such occasions, blame God and turn their backs on Him and walk away. Paul gives some great advice and perspective in the beginning of 2 Corinthians concerning our attitude toward suffering.

First of all, he says that when we suffer and are comforted by God then we are able to comfort others who are suffering (1:4). It is important to remember that living Christian lives is predicated upon our emptying of ourselves (Matthew 16:24) and serving others (Matthew 25:31-46). He wanted the Christians at Corinth to comfort the man who had repented and confirm their love toward him (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).

Secondly, we gain strength through our ministry, for God and toward others, to *“faint not”* (2 Corinthians 4:1).

Thirdly, the greatest comfort comes through the ministry of preaching and sharing the gospel of Jesus and while doing so Paul says, *“We are troubled...but not distressed...perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed”* (2 Corinthians 4:7-9).

Considering all that Paul had been through it is amazing that all was but *“light affliction,”* but that it worked for *“a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (2 Corinthians 4:17). How are we using our suffering to serve God and others?

### **Count it All Joy**

By Aaron Vevon

In James 1:2 James said, *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”* We might be thinking just now, “Is he kidding? Please tell me he’s kidding!” No, friend, he is very serious; but I can understand why we may be so alarmed. After all, who enjoys hardship and struggles? But we see he is not encouraging us to fall in love with suffering, but rather to see the spiritual good that can result from enduring sufferings. (So don’t be going around saying, “Wow, I hope I get beat up by the bully at school today,” or, “I hope I’ll be the victim of road rage today”).

Here is the point: *“count it all joy...knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”* (vv. 3-4). This is about spiritual maturity. We might call it “growing pains.” Enduring (by faith) one difficulty better prepares us for a harder one (and they are coming). Think of it, before David had to even think of fighting Goliath, God prepared him for that difficulty by allowing him to face lions and bears (1 Samuel 17:32-37). Peter saw the value of trials by indicating that we are like gold that is tested by fire (1 Peter 1:6-7). Why is gold placed in the crucible of fire? To burn out the impurities; then it will be “pure” gold. So *“count it all joy,”* or as Jesus put it, *“rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven”* (Matthew 5:11-12). The apostles certainly understood this (Acts 5:40-41). Do we?