

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

April 16, 2020



The Golden Gate Bridge

It's Not the Same

The fog that is surrounding us these is anything but pleasant. The news changes everyday — the numbers, the projections, the prognostications are creating a fog that makes San Francisco look like Waikiki.

I woke up on Monday morning feeling — I don't know what word to use — *melancholy*? I'm not getting used to this at all. Let's face it, besides the obvious characteristics of a strong church (leadership, soundness, organization, doctrine) our strength as a church has been our robust attendance, with great singing, strong Bible classes for all (and, I hope, serviceable preaching). Most important, we have a group of people who love each other and hang around and visit for an hour after services. Personally, I have had the profound privilege of being the preacher here for almost 26 years and so much (though not all) of that experience centers on our “family gatherings” at 900 E. Natoma every Sunday and Wednesday.

But abruptly, those have been taken away from us by a virus — the “invisible enemy.” Meanwhile, we study and worship through Zoom meetings which are better than nothing. But seeing a relatively small number of you on Sunday, in little squares is not the same. We joke about Brady Bunch and Hollywood Squares (two really old TV shows) but it's not the same as seeing each other at least twice a week. I don't like it, and I'm an introvert!

This government-imposed (and necessary) hiatus is hard to bear. But one thing for sure; I'm guessing almost all of you feel like I do and can't wait to get back together, up close (well, at least 6 feet away) and personal. I've been sending this “Daily View” to everyone in the Folsom church (and other friends and relatives who have requested it) for one main reason: to try, in some small way, to stay connected to each other. I'm not sure how effective that is for you because you probably don't read all of these (I don't read everything I get in email, by any means). So maybe it's more of a catharsis for me. And, I get to unload some old illustrations and stories on you all <grin>.

At the beginning of this lockdown, a couple of people asked me to record a sermon on YouTube that the whole church could listen to. Or, go to the building and record a “live-stream” sermon, with me and a cameraman and maybe a few family members. I know some have done that, but, as the saying goes, “that's not my jam.” It has to do with my view of the purpose of preaching and how I preach... I won't bore you with today. I feel like the Zoom meetings are going well, with a lot of different participants, and that's a good thing, and others are meeting with their families, and that's good, too.

We're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The elders are discussing plans for when we can start assembling again, at any level, and we'll be sending an email out shortly on what we are planning. As we all know, there is a lot we don't know right now, including when and in what manner we will be able to meet together. However, the elders are committed to getting us together as soon as it is safe to do so.

More to come...