

Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13



"Thank You"

On this Monday, July 6th, about 100 days after we were ordered to suspend services and a few weeks after we've been able to meet in smaller groups, I want to express my appreciation to the members of the body at Folsom for their support, their patience and cooperation. Nothing I say here implies that I am surprised at this, but I do want you all to know I appreciate you — and I know I speak for Dennis, Forrest, Russ, Randy and Terry.

I've had my moments when I've felt "concerned," and a little downhearted. When your life revolves around the church, it's hard to accept the restrictions that have been imposed on us. I suspect many of you share that feeling because your routine on your job has been redirected in one way or another (if you still have a job). I admit, at times, I've figuratively shaken my fist at the pontifications, the edicts, the inconsistencies and what appears to be nothing more than a power grab, in some cases.

I can't argue against the reasons for reasonable restrictions, though; the health issue is real and "it's hard to kick against the goads" — but I don't like it. In normal times, there is nothing better than Sundays at the Folsom church of Christ. The full house, the singing, the common *splankna* (expressed through words, handshakes and hugs), the chance to meet new people, the quality of the Bible classes and the overall "vibe." I miss that — "you don't know what you have until it's gone." (Isn't that an old country song?).

We — the elders — have had to face several challenges and make some difficult decisions. The six of us haven't always been in lockstep, which is a good thing. We are able to freely express our opinions with each other and hammer out an agreement that we can all live with. When you get an email you are reading the consensus of all six of us. By the time you hear our decision, there is no dissenting voice in the eldership on that point.

So, I just want to take this space in the *Daily View* today to tell you how much we appreciate the cooperation of you all. We couldn't lead properly without it. I know you don't all agree with every decision we make, and that is perfectly OK. We can't account for criticism that is not brought directly to us, but so far, dissenting views have been courteous and, in every case, preceded by, "I know how difficult it must be..." We appreciate that attitude.

Just looking at the numbers, too, our attendance at the four and now three services has been good and, combined with the live-streaming numbers, very good. The contribution has been excellent, as well.

As I said above, none of this surprises me but it's great to have our confidence in each other confirmed under these difficult circumstances. I have received personal notes that have "made my day" and I know the other elders have received them as well.

Thank you for all of it, and we earnestly look forward to the time when we can all be together again. Meanwhile, let's all continue our love and support for each other and emphasize what we have in common and, whether we are in each others' physical presence or not, we know we have a common hope and a common faith (II Peter 1:3). Meanwhile, I love this text...

It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. *Philippians 1:7-11*