

# View

*"...Having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." Ephesians 1:18*

## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

***Please Fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank you***

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day

#### 9:30 - Classes

**Authority: Auditorium**  
**Parenting: Room 13/14**

#### 10:30 - Assembly

Speaking today: Dennis Wade

#### 2 PM Class

**Room 13/14 Minor Prophets**

#### 5 PM (building)

**Bible Study: Gospel Preaching in the Early Church**

#### 5 PM: Weekly Young Adult Class

**5PM @ David Heather Byrd's home**

#### Tuesday, 10 AM

**Ephesians: "Rich Kids"**

#### Wednesday, 7 PM

**Authority: Auditorium**  
**Parenting: Room 13/14**

#### Singing at the Folsom Care Center

3rd Sunday each month at 3:15 PM (see Grant Mulligan)

#### Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Sunday of the month (see Tyler Wade)

## Information

### Children's Classes

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### Online

You can find copies of class material and archives of previous editions of the View and listen to sermons online at [www.folsom.com](http://www.folsom.com). Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>.

### View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly, plus there are some hard copies printed on Sundays.

Mat 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." ESV



Read your Bible daily

# Meeting Modern Challenges to the Family

To his Ephesian brethren, Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15,16). The more evil the environment in which the Christian must live, the more necessary it is to be careful and to be strong in the Lord.

At this point in history, Christians in America know something about what Paul meant when he said that “the days are evil.” From nearly every direction, our culture threatens our faith. The person who takes seriously his relationship to Christ can’t help being concerned about what the future may hold. And for many of us, the spiritual survival of our families heads the list of our concerns. Modern challenges to the family are as deadly as they are real.

The wave of sexual promiscuity that has resulted from the Sexual Revolution strikes at the very heart of the family: the mutually faithful one-flesh relationship between husband and wife. Homosexuality promises to redefine the very concept of what a family is. Rampant divorce has made it impossible for children to have any confidence that their home will hold together long enough for them to grow up. The children’s rights and social parenting movements are advocating that children be raised by the state rather than their parents. Abortion, suicide, and euthanasia each have disturbing family implications. The entertainment media, the educational system, and the welfare state all are arrayed against the traditional family. All in all, it is a frightening array of alien forces that confront the family nowadays.

What can we do to meet these challenges? We can serve God faithfully in our families! It may be a simple idea, but it is true: serving God has always been the best way to stay strong spiritually and survive the attacks of a hostile culture.

Think, for example, about Daniel’s three friends. In the familiar story of Dan. 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were strong enough to risk their lives rather than worship the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Threatened with death, they simply said, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king” (Dan. 3:16,17). There is more

than a coincidental link between these men’s strength in God and their previous service to God. They had what it took to meet their test because they had been serving God before the test arrived.

The same principle governs the spiritual strength of our families. If, as families, we genuinely love the Lord and our fellow man (Mt. 22:37-39), if we have truly given ourselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5), and if we “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hb. 12:28), we will find that we have what it takes to overcome difficulty. To ward off spiritual disease and destruction, a family needs an “immune system,” and the immune system God intended families to have is built up day by day in the process of serving Him. There is no shortcut. Without the resources that are built up in this way, there is really nothing that can protect a family from the devastating influences that we have to contend with right now.

For one thing, serving God is what builds up faith. Most of the modern threats to the family have grown out of a humanistic philosophy that denies the existence of God. Faith in God, real trust in Him personally, is what is necessary to meet these challenges. Long ago, John wrote, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4). There is no pill we can take that will give us this faith that overcomes the world. Faith is gained in the daily process of serving God to the best of our understanding.

In the second place, serving God is what builds genuine character in the inner person. The worst dangers our families face today are those that strike at our inmost being, our very nature as beings created in God’s image. The strength required to deal with such dangers is the strength of deep, godly character. Paul prayed for his brethren to be “strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Eph. 3:16). Character is not built up relaxing in an easy chair; it’s developed in the active work of serving God. Families today that hope to survive what’s happening are going to need more than the superficial strength of those who merely talk about the Lord. We need the real strength of character that comes from genuine, daily service to God.

Thirdly, if our families are to meet modern challenges, we must enjoy deep, rich relationships among family members. These relationships don’t just happen; they develop and deepen over time as we serve the Lord. What is true of the local congre-

gation is no less true of our physical families: strength comes from "the effective working by which every part does its share" (Eph. 4:16). The best strength in the world is the strength of those who have grown strong serving the Lord together. Serving the Lord enriches our family relationships, and in so doing it builds into those relationships a strength that can hardly come any other way.

It so happens that serving God does one other thing for us. It gives us courage! Without courage, we are lost. Paul urged the Corinthians, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). The godly family that survives modern culture and overcomes in the Lord is not one that makes cowardly compromise with evil. It courageously stands for what is true and good.

Ultimately, the courage our families need today is formed in our hearts as we experience the reality of living life in Christ. We must do more than attend the services of the church; we must "taste" that the Lord is gracious (1 Pt. 2:3). When we do, our families will have the kind of power that the devil flees from.

Gary Henry

## **Burdens Children Shouldn't Bear**

I recently watched a television commercial that was meant to make me chuckle but instead depressed me. It was an advertisement for sandwich meats where a little girl runs a sack lunch out to her mom who is pulling out of the driveway. The intended humor is to portray the child as the "mother figure" who is watching out for her mom and making sure she doesn't forget the things she needs. I suppose the humor would have worked on me if I didn't know of children who are having to fill that role. In reality, the reversal is tragic.

The Bible places parents and children in distinct roles:

"Children obey your parents in the Lord, . . . fathers . . . bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" "For the children ought to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (Eph 6:4; 2 Cor. 12:14).

Parents are to be leaders, teachers, providers, and protectors. It is unnatural for children to have to deal with adult decisions and pressures. Though, it is good for children to be tested and challenged, there

are some burdens that children ought not to bear.

Children should not have to navigate the moral dilemmas of life without a standard. Our Society encourages everyone to determine what is right for them. While that may be liberating for some sinful adults, it leaves a child lost. Children should be taught there is a God who loves but judges all. They should be taught His word can guide them in every decision.

Children should not be left to fend for themselves while parents are occupied with other things. I know of a thirteen-year old who had to learn to balance her mom's checkbook because of her mom's irresponsibility. Some kids cook their own meals and wash their own clothes because there isn't a parent around to do it. A child needs to learn responsibility but not by being totally responsible for all his needs.

Children should not be stuck in the middle while two parents fight it out in the aftermath of a divorce. One of the most unnatural things for a child to have to do is to choose one parent over another. Even in a peaceful divorce (Have you ever known of one?), kids are in an awkward position. Parents are responsible for their marriages, not the kids. In a divorce though the kids bear as much pain as do mom and dad. It is a burden kids should not have to bear and woe to the parents who cold-heartedly place it on their little ones.

Phillip Mullins

## **Annual Teen Bible Boot Camp**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

**For Information and to  
Register:**

<http://www.folsomchurch.com/>

**Save the Date!**  
**Vacation Bible School 2019**  
**July 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**