

# 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.

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Eph 4:26—27 (ESV)

# Competition For The Mind

Dee Bowman

In Ephesians 4:26-27, Paul commanded, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil."

This passage is variously translated. Phillips renders it, "Don't give the devil that sort of foothold. Goodspeed's translation says, "You must not give the devil a chance." The Twentieth Century New Testament gives it, "And give no opportunity to the Devil." The thought in all of these is the same: mainly, don't give the Devil residency in your mind.

Someone has said, "you can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair." In the same way, you can't keep the Devil from making periodic trips through your mind; but you don't have to give him a place to stay.

In this age there is a constant bombardment of the mind by the Devil. He is seeking a place to stay. And one of the ways he does it is by advertising. Our society is addicted to it. Its influence in our lives is astounding.

This competition for the mind is relentless and indefatigable, just as the means is subtle and effective. Secularism is disguised as success; materialism wears the mask of excellence; free love is passed off as freedom of the human expression. The result is indifference toward God.

Those who give over to this cunningly devised plan will find it hard to leave. Once they enter this world of "let me do it my way," they quickly become so mired that only the strongest will can divorce them from their predicament. The appetite for such loose activities cannot be satisfied and calls for an ever-deepening, always increasing evil just to top the last "satisfaction" enjoyed.

Such careless subscription to the devil's ploys results in disaster. The giving of oneself to a life without restraint results in a cluttered, undisciplined mind, one difficult to penetrate and often without much feeling for others. Such thinking dampens the spirit of purpose, causes its adherent to be tentative in his plans, temporary in his judgment. It restrains the inclination to grow--intellectually, spiritually, or any other way. It is short-sighted, foolish to listen to promises of the sort we see everywhere displayed by our adversary.

Three things stand out to me as necessary to guard against the Devil's efforts to capture the mind.

***Make sure your focus is right.*** Where are you looking? In what direction are you headed? Like Paul, we must "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). The Hebrew writer said of Jesus, "...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." (Hebrews 12:2). We need to set before us a focus toward heaven.

***Develop a determination toward self-regulation.*** Paul said it was necessary: "But I keep under ("buffet,"ASV) my body and bring it into subjection: that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor. 9:26-27). A life not properly managed vacillates, is tentative, not fixed on course. It's headed toward sure destruction.

***Return to regular associations with truth.*** It is just so that we are influenced by our companions. When we tolerate associations with the Devil, we are just more apt to become like him. "Be not deceived; evil company corrupts good habits" (I Corinthians 15:33). But when you are in constant contact with the truth, it will be the pervading influence in your life. Truth frees!

There is a battle raging--a serious, eternal-life-threatening battle. It's a personal battle. We can lose it if we are not careful. The mind is the battle ground for the conflict. Be very careful, won't you?

## It Happens Slowly

by Lewis Willis

It would be a blessing if we were able to see the end of a thing at its beginning. This would be especially valuable regarding moral or ethical behavior. For instance, if a person could see at the time he takes his first social drink that he would end up being an alcoholic, he probably would gracefully decline the drink. If he could see himself as the alcoholic losing his job, abusing his wife and family, the break up of his home, the loss of his self-respect and his respect in the community, the loss of his health, perhaps committing a crime or killing someone in an auto accident - I say, if he could see this as the end of the seemingly innocent social drink, he would not imbibe. However, like so many other things, someone else is always the alcoholic.

The same thing could be said of numbers of other things. When a young person first experiments with drugs, he does not think for a moment he might become a drug crazed addict who commits crimes to support his addiction. The person who sees something

laying around that can so easily be picked up without anyone knowing, does not consider himself becoming the common convicted and imprisoned thief. If the married man, telling suggestive little jokes to the girl in the office or on the job, could see ultimate adultery and divorce, he would refrain. As I said, if we could only see the end of a thing at its beginning, we would not make so many mistakes and get into the fixes in which we often find ourselves.

But this is not an article about moral issues as such. I intend it as an article on spiritual concerns. I have been teaching a class on Wednesday night, studying the book of Luke. We are now at that point where we have just studied the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. We see him in company with the Lord and the other apostles. Next we see him leading a mob through the darkness of Gethsemane, coming to Jesus, betraying him with a sign of deep affection - a kiss. I read this statement recently: "It is a sad little line that tells us of Judas slipping away from holy company to betray his Lord. No truer statement was every penned than the few words in John 13:30: Judas went out '...and it was night.' It was night and the darkest night of Judas' life. What was the poor man thinking of? The Lord himself called him a friend; surely Judas loved this wonderful man with whom he had companied for 3 1/2 years. Was it the money? Was there some sort of personal notoriety he longed for? I doubt that we can know the whole of it; only that he was motivated by the Devil. But his night did not come suddenly. There is always a certain twilight preceding such a dark hour" (Jerry Johnson, The Light [Vol. 20, No. 2] pg. 15). Judas is the classic example of the point I seek to make. Would he have done what he did had he known the end that would befall him? Would the story have been the same if he could have envisioned his own disgrace and suicide? His fall did not happen in a moment - it happened slowly!

I preached a sermon recently in which I looked at some of the ideas and actions now found in Churches of Christ. It is hard to imagine that these things are the result of a decision several years ago to send \$25 a month to some human institution doing what was considered to be such a good thing, or the decision to have an innocent little congregational dinner in the classroom section of the building. How could this possibly lead to some of the things we now see in liberal churches? It happens slowly!

Well, as Christians, most of us could hardly imagine that we might fall away completely from the Lord. We would never consider just getting up and walking out of the assembly, never to return again. However, the sad truth is that some do walk away, never to return. You see, it happens slowly. We may not really know all of the factors that entered into it. Perhaps they seem so small and imperceptible at the time. Perhaps it was the

demands of our job, school activities, or, something that needed to be done around the house or on the car. It really does not matter what it was. The sad truth is, the troubles and cares of life were given priority over the things of God so many times that suddenly we realize that God has slipped from our lives. Did we intend it? No! It just happened - slowly. We missed a few Wednesday nights. Then it was all Wednesday nights. Then, a few Sunday nights - then all Sunday nights. Lo and behold, then it was a few Sunday mornings until it became all Sunday mornings. It happens slowly but we wake up one day to realize that we have fallen away from the Lord. Had we seen this end when we started this process months before, we would have stopped it immediately. Now there is not enough faith left to even care. Apostasy is the sad and tragic end to a handful of small, seemingly meaningless little carelessness.

One has to remember the words of Paul at all times: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). Is it not the course of wisdom to pause occasionally and ask ourselves: "What is more important than God and our service to him?" If anything comes before God, the twilight of ultimate darkness has set in around us. It is time for alarm!

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Read your Bible  
daily

## 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>