

View

“Boot Camp” is coming up, April 5-7
Sign up on our website @ folsomchurch.com

“...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 five 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 AM – Classes

Auditorium: Authority

Room 13/14: Parenting

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

Nothing New Under the Sun (Ecclesiastes)

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Young Adults Class

This week: 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey's

Tuesday, 10 AM

Ephesians: “Rich Kids”

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Authority

Room 13/14: Parenting

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday 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.folsomchurch.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 and available in the foyer.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

Revelation 21:3-5

THE CULTURE COLUMN

From Culture Translator*

Selfie Harm

A recent study of nearly 25,000 people found today's youth are more perfectionist than ever in their desire for flawlessness. This juvenile pursuit of perfection is leading to higher rates of neurosis and an increase in self-loathing among teens. It's something renowned British photographer Rankin tapped into recently on Instagram.

In a series of photos, he photographed teenagers, then handed them their images to edit and filter until each felt their picture was "social media ready." After examining their photos, Rankin noticed the students were "mimicking their idols, making their eyes bigger, their nose smaller, and their skin brighter." He hopes the series will call out the "damaging effects that social media has on people's self-image" as we retouch and photoshop the smallest minutia of our appearance until it's "perfect."

As much as we should know better, most of us are haunted by the delusion of physical perfectibility. "We may not know what it means to be perfect, but we are secretly grieved because we are far from it." Incredibly enough it was our very imperfect skin that Jesus took on when the Word became flesh. Isaiah tells us He had "nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him." Was Jesus overweight or maybe bald? Is it possible in our high Christology to perceive the historical Jesus as someone who was far from physically "perfect"? Yet the central mystery of the incarnation is that God chose to work in and through our fallen humanity to dignify and redeem us—meaning we can forever cease the endless pursuit of external perfection. Because of Christ, we are no longer broken vessels but "noble creatures." And like the students in Rankin's experiment who ultimately preferred their unedited photos over the modified ones, may we ultimately choose to accept the inherent worthiness of our own humanity by believing that through God's grace it is possible to "be perfect" as God our Father is perfect.

Substances

Trendwatcher news site Mashable posted a multi-slide story to the homepage of Snapchat that gave teens an anti-vaping hotline number. Calling e-cigarette use a "national epidemic" and citing statistics that point to a 78% increase in vaping amongst teens, the story urged teens to text or call an anonymous number for help. On the plus side, pop culture is recognizing the dangers of JUUL and other e-cigarettes for teens and starting to condemn it. But on the other hand, it's clear many teens don't feel like they can talk to their

parents when they struggle because of shame and stigma.

Spill the Tea

What it is: Private social media accounts dedicated to "spilling the tea" (spreading gossip) among students are starting to crop up at schools, even Christian ones.

Why it's not harmless: "Tea" has been around as slang for gossip for quite awhile, in phrases like "spill the tea" or "sips tea." And gossip itself is nothing new, it just changes forms over time: rumor spreading, faking harmful images, burn books, etc. Sometimes, teenagers can be ingenious in their quests for revenge or harm. So at their core, these accounts are just a modern way to publicly smear others. Regardless of the term we use, it's still bullying. Ask your kids if their school has a "tea" account. Do they follow it? Why or why not? Have they or their friends ever been hurt by the account? Do they know of other schools that have one?

Cyberbullying

In 2014, Michelle Carter enthusiastically and unceasingly encouraged her boyfriend to go through with killing himself. Tragically, he succeeded, and Carter has been trying to avoid jail time ever since. Now her state's supreme court has ruled against her appeal. When this story first made headlines, some legal analysts (and Carter's lawyers) believed that the appeal would be successful. But in the time since she was first found guilty, our understanding of how cyberbullying works—and how widespread it is—has expanded. It's important to keep talking to our kids about what forms bullying can take so they can seek help when they're the victim and also understand if they're the aggressor.

Parenting

If you're frustrated and confused by the seemingly endless list of things you *should* be able to provide for your child but can't, you're not alone. "Intensive parenting" is now the norm in the US. A host of sociologists have suggested economics, the surveillance state, and societal pressure as reasons why parents hold themselves to a higher (read: more impossible) standard than ever. What we're finding out is that what parents *think* they should do doesn't differ much between working-class and wealthier-class individuals. But what parents are *able* to do is vastly limited by financial and societal class structure. Ironically, "good" parenting really hinges on your kids witnessing grace. That includes them witnessing you giving grace to yourself when you're simply not able to be involved in every single second of your child's life.

***Editor's Note:** "Cultural Translator" is a weekly publication of Axis. We do not necessarily endorse or agree with everything written in it each week. We generally remove links to outside articles, videos and Internet posts unless we've reviewed them to make sure they are appropriate for a church publication. Feel free to share your thoughts on anything we include in this section or anything else in the **View**.

Baptism

BY DAVID POSEY

Prior to becoming a full-time preacher for a local church, I was in sales for over 12 years. It was a pressure-packed job; the company rewarded salesmen well but expected outstanding performance. Why? Because in the business world *one single event* justifies their existence — the critical transaction is the moment their product is *sold*.

In the kingdom of Christ, one can argue that there are several events that might be described as a “critical transaction.” But for an individual, there is one moment in time, one decisive moment in which an event must occur, or nothing else matters. That is when he or she is immersed in water for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). As Peter succinctly says, in I Peter 3:21, “*baptism now saves you.*”

There are many other references to this single transaction in the life of individuals who responded to the gospel. See Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16, 22. Jesus’ last word recorded in the gospel of Matthew is for the disciples to baptize those who become disciples (followers) of Christ (Matthew 28:19). Paul mentions baptism several times in his letters often assuming that his readers have been baptized (cf., Romans 6:3ff., Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12).

That seems clear enough, yet, most of the evangelical religious world doesn’t agree that adult baptism is the “critical transaction.” They will tell you that one is saved at the moment of belief or “faith,” even though the Bible provides many examples of people who believe but do not act on their belief. James says, “you believe that God is one? You do well; even the *demons* believe, and tremble” (2:19).

That text — and many others — are inconvenient truths for those who embrace a faith- or grace-only doctrine. These teachers nullify several passages of scripture that teach about the importance of baptism because they do not fit neatly into their particular theological framework. Their presuppositions preclude embracing anything that seems to rock their doctrinal boat.

Reading the Bible with a theological presupposition is dangerous. Those who are married to the man-made system of Calvinism, for example, attempt to explain away the clear teaching of Jesus and his apostles. And, without putting too fine a point on it, their arguments are simply absurd. I know some of these teachers aren’t fond of the book of James, but they had better listen to his warning in 3:1, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”

Jesus told his apostles, in the great commission recorded in Matthew 28:19, to “make disciples, baptizing them in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” A “disciple” is one who follows Jesus, but is not necessarily saved (see John 6:66, “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him”). It is necessary to *follow* Jesus before one is saved by being baptized. You don’t make a disciple by baptizing him; Jesus commands that disciples be baptized.

Yet, William Barclay throws cold water on the phrase “baptizing them” with an off-handed remark that “it may well be that the instruction to baptize is something which is a development beyond the actual words of Jesus” (*Matthew*, Vol. 2, p 378). “Development” is a coy way of saying, “someone added that; Jesus didn’t actually say it.” But he offers no evidence of that.

Wayne Grudem, a theology professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, says: “While we recognize that Jesus commanded baptism (Matthew 28:19) as did the apostles (Acts 2:38), we should not say baptism

is *necessary* for salvation...” (Bible Doctrine, p. 384). At the end of that discussion (p. 385), he concludes: “Baptism, then, is not necessary for salvation. But it is necessary if we are to be obedient to Christ, for he commanded baptism for all who believe in him.”

Wait... *What???*

Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is *necessary* if we are to be obedient to Christ? So, Dr. Grudem: must we obey Christ to be saved? Though we may disagree on what it means, I’m sure that Dr. Grudem would agree that Christians have received the Holy Spirit. But Peter taught that it is a gift we receive at baptism (Acts 2:38-39) and that the gift of the Spirit is dependent on obedience:

...the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who **obey** him.” (Acts 5:32)

It seems obvious that one should be careful about embracing a theology that would require him to say that a person can disobey a clear command of Jesus and still be saved. That belief is based on the Calvinistic principle that one is unconditionally elected, even before he or she is born.

Fact: Jesus *commanded* baptism. **Fact:** the apostles commanded baptism. Grudem admits this but says you’ll still be saved, even if you disobey those commands. I’ll go with what Jesus commanded instead of what Grudem presumes. I mean, if we can disobey this command, what *other* commands can we disobey and still be saved?

“...one should be careful about embracing a theology that would require you to say that you can disobey a clear command of Jesus and still be saved.”