

View

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

Teacher training program: coming this summer!

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

Ecclesiastes: Tick, Tock

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Young Adults Class

Tonight at the Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday, 10 AM

10 AM at the Building: Ephesians 6

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.

Disclaimer

The opinions, interpretations and views that appear in the View are those of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the view of the elders or other members of the church of Christ at Folsom.

Teaching our Kids

“Let no one despise your youth...” 1 Timothy 4:12 said Paul to Timothy. That almost sounds quaint when read in light of today’s American culture. I mean, who actually “despises” (deplores, reviles, sneers at) youth today? If anything, youth is praised and adored. Just look at the reception that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (the House Democrat from New York) is receiving, even though she constantly puts her foot in her mouth.

But this is a development that is of fairly recent origin. Looking back, even in my lifetime, there was some “despising of youth” in churches. If not full-on “despising,” there was a total lack of attention.

In the 50s and 60s churches of Christ were growing rapidly. Yet, few of the young people from that era grew up to be faithful adults. That’s one reason there are so few churches in California today and many of the ones that are still functioning are much smaller in number now.

I can only speak about churches I’m familiar with but I can say that, in those churches, the adults got almost all of the attention. In one church Christie and I attended after we were married, we were not taken seriously. After all, we were just “youngsters” age 22 and 19.

Even in the last ten years, I have heard, a time or two, church members complain that we give too much time and attention to our young people. Seriously, I couldn’t believe it. Fellow Baby Boomers, you have to know that *we* are the modern-day generation of those who “grew up and did not know the Lord...” (Joshua 2:10).

The leadership at the Folsom church has never “despised” the youth. In the last 20-plus years, we have made a concerted effort to preserve our young people in the faith. We admittedly, and without apology, spend the lion’s share of our edification resources on that segment of the church population.

Why? Because our youth are most at risk of losing their faith. They are exposed, daily, to the devil’s attempt to draw them away from faith in Christ. Plus, we only have a few years to do whatever we can to build the kind of faith that will withstand the “flaming darts of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:10). Using the analogy in that chapter of Ephesians, we are doing our best to clothe them with “the whole armor of God,” through an understanding of the word of God (see Romans 10:17).

This is why, starting in June, we’ll be devoting the entire summer quarter to teacher training. Our primary focus will be on the training of teachers of young people from age 2 to 11-12. Typically, but not exclusively, these classes are taught by our ladies — although, we are going to make an effort to change that. There is no logical reason why men cannot teach the youngest age groups.

Details on the program will be forthcoming very soon. Meanwhile, let’s renew our devotion to helping our young people become grounded in the faith.

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You won’t believe what this “Bible” magazine is teaching.

We apparently have a much higher view of what our kids can understand and apply than many churches that are involved in so-called “youth ministries,” most of which have failed miserably to help kids grow their faith. Protestant denominations and community churches are losing kids at the rate of 70% by the time they leave high school. They are in a panic. Their recipe of rock music, smoothies and non-stop entertainment has failed to keep kids in church.

No wonder. These programs naively attempt to compete with Hollywood, in a vain effort to be “relevant.” In the process, they have managed to insult the intelligence of most high school students.

But it’s not just “youth ministries.” Some time ago, I bought a “Biblezine”; it’s a complete New Testament in a magazine format, using the New Century Version. Seems like a “cool” idea. But when I got to Romans, instead of some solid material on the gospel, albeit in a youth-friendly style, you get some

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of the fluffiest stuff I’ve ever seen — in *Romans*, of all places! When you open to the pages that cover chapter 1, you get a brief overview of Romans, but then some really odd sidebar stuff that is supposed to be “application.” In this section of Romans, that deals so concisely with the problem of sin among the Gentiles and includes homosexuality and idolatry as marquee examples, you find this:

Q&A: Everybody else’s parents seem so cool, but mine only seem to like clothes and music from twenty years ago. What’s wrong with them?

Huh? What’s that got to do with anything in Romans one? On the next few pages there are a host of colorful boxes dealing with such topics as *10 Simple Secrets to Better Grades* or *Looking Ahead: First Job*, and a short article on cricket (the baseball-like sport popular in England). That gets you through chapter 4. Maybe Abraham played cricket? In the section that covers chapters 5 & 6, there’s a little ditty, entitled “Cool!” about Athens — not sure why. Then there is a sidebar: “Smart Tips” reminding you to “wear deodorant” (no joke).

In the section about the Jews (Romans 9-11), you find an article on Rugby and questions from a kid who is being forced to take piano lessons; he wonders whether the Bible says he has to or not. Seriously. *Seriously??*

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In the chapter on obeying civil government, Romans 13, there is another article on a sport (polo) and another *Looking Ahead* column, this time to High School. You would think they could find something to apply to kids in that section of Romans — *like obeying the civil law!* — but I guess the editors feel these kids just can't handle it quite yet.

In Romans 14-15, instead of some great application on accepting each other in spite of our personal opinions, you get some really helpful information (he said facetiously) like “10 ways to become better at sports” and another “Smart Tip: Trim Your Toenails.”

I can hardly wait for the Biblezine on I Corinthians! That'll be a trip (as we used to say).

“Our kids are not only smart, but want to be challenged. They respond best when we believe in them, not when we treat them as a step above an infant.”

This is supposed to be the New Testament with “helps” but it's more like something you'd expect from Saturday Night Live. *Hey kids, did you know that this is what some adults think of you? You can't handle the depth, so they'll let you paddle around in the shallow end, apparently wearing spiritual floaties!*

Changing the metaphor, can our kids handle the fastballs, curves and sliders of the gospel? I think so; I think they can hit it out of the park.

Not long ago a 9 year old remembered a minor point that I made in a sermon preached a month before (and actually corrected her mother in the process). Some of our moms here share the memory work their 2-5 year olds are doing and it's beyond impressive (in some cases, they can quote a whole Psalm). I could on and on with examples of what these small children know.

The young mind is capable of amazing things, when that mind finds something it is interested in. When I was 11 years old, I knew a few Bible verses that might dad had me memorize (I can still quote Romans 10:1-3, although it comes out in various versions). Besides that, I knew the names, numbers and positions of the starting lineups of both the San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers. To this day — even at my age — I can still tell you most of them (the earlier you learn something, the better the retention).

Our kids are not only smart, but want to be challenged. They respond best when we believe in them, not when we treat them as one step above an infant.

Of course, we should do our best to communicate in age-appropriate language so the kids can understand. But let's not insult the intelligence of our young people by talking down to them, supposing they can't understand the Scriptures and their intended application.

Maybe it's just me, but I don't think the Bible's purpose is to get you to use deodorant and to teach you to trim your toenails.

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From Culture Translator

Even Monkeys Can Do *This*

Next time your teen pushes back on putting down their device at dinner, show them this freaky video of a monkey using social media. As *The Outline's* Casey Johnston points out, probably nothing is as sobering as a chimpanzee looking at Instagram. The chimp scrolls, selects, absorbs what he sees, and continues scrolling. It's reminiscent of how even toddlers and babies seem to intuitively grasp the way our tech works, and how much time of their lives will be spent on devices, even though we don't know yet how that plays out on their brain development. It makes us never want to look at Instagram again! Well, maybe just one more time...

WHO takes on the effects of screen time

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced new screen limit guidelines for little ones—and their press release should be of interest to parents of teens, too. Wringing our hands over how much time *everyone* in our culture spends in front of screens does nothing on a practical level to help us engage with the off-screen world, but the WHO recommendations go a step further than previous warnings about kids and tech.

Experts are now calling out the amount of time children spend sedentary as a main concern, citing the importance of sleep routines, rhythms of rest, and active play. This calls to mind an obvious truth: We can't simply put down our phones, we have to replace the time we spend online with something that engages us in a different way. That goes for infants, teens, and adults alike.

What is wrong with this picture?

