

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

Summer Quarter Begins Today

All the ladies are invited to teacher training classes in rooms 13/14, 15/16, & 17. Each woman is assigned to a class in one of those rooms. Look for a list posted on the bulletin board and at each classroom entrance.

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: How Jesus Teaches Us (The Gospel of Mark)

3 Rooms: 13/14 – 15/16 – 17 – Ladies' Teacher Training

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: Zach McGinnis

"A Story of Soils and Sowers"

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 Class}

This class will resume in the fall

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: How Jesus Teaches Us (The Gospel of Mark)

3 Rooms: 13/14 – 15/16 – 17 – Ladies' Teacher Training

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.

This & That

BY DAVID POSEY

Graduation Awards

Lexi's graduation ceremony took place on Thursday night (several other of our young people graduated this year as well). I was amazed at the varied accomplishments of many of the kids — her class had *nine valedictorians!* There were also at least 9-10 other categories for which these graduating seniors were recognized during the almost two hour event. All of these awards had a citizenship element in them, which is great. However — *do you believe it?!* — there was not even *one* award for being a faithful, holy and amazing Christian young person!

Yes, I'm being facetious. That has never happened and never will. But, ironically, it is the only "accomplishment" that will outlast the lifetime of the precious young souls that walked up to that stage to receive their "ticket" to move on.

What the Bible Doesn't Say

Did you know that the Bible never says that grace is "amazing"? Or that the Lord's Supper is "the most important thing we do on Sunday." I would never argue that grace is not amazing, but it's a song, not a biblical verse. I can argue that the Lord's Supper is the key reason we meet on the Lord's day. But the Bible just doesn't say some of the things we so often say. Let's remember what Peter tells us in I Peter 4:11: "if any one speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God."

Teaching

If we're going to talk about important and amazing things, I would have to put teaching up there. Everything we do in the assembly is either teaching or dependent on teaching. Our prayers, our preaching, our singing — even the Lord's Supper — would not be possible without teaching. In fact, there is nothing we can do by faith unless we have been taught to do it (see Romans 10:17).

Speaking of teaching —

"If God doth such great things to teach us, we ought not to do little to learn."

—Jonathan Edwards

Singing

I Corinthians 14:15 says,

What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

I mentioned in the sermon last week that we are not at liberty to speak an untruth just because the words are set to music. Not only was there no musical instruments used in churches in New Testament times, there was also no four-part harmony or beautiful tunes to sing (some historians tell us early singing was mostly chants). I love beautiful songs as well as the next guy, but beautiful tunes can become the enemy of understanding. It is easy to get caught up in the music and pay little attention to the *words* we are singing — and it is the words that teach and admonish (Colossians 3:16).

Can Simplicity Become the Enemy of Reverence?

Like beautiful melodies in music, simplicity in worship can become the enemy of reverence. There's a fine line between simplicity and superficiality, between casual and sloppy. The Bible teaches simple, dignified worship (see I Corinthians 14:26, 40). Some denominations seek to impose reverence through ritual, and we reject that. Loud organ music, men in

robes calling themselves "reverend," repetitious phrases and prayers — that's the other extreme. I don't doubt that people who engage in those rituals *feel* they have worshipped; they are moved by the music and the chanting and formality of it all. But, as someone said long ago, "the more we need to be moved from the outside, the less we have on the inside." Our worship, by comparison, is remarkably simple. But let's not let the simplicity of our service become sluggish service.

Platitudes

If you pay attention to the news, how many times have you heard some congressperson say, "we need to do something about illegal immigration!" That's a platitude — a bromide, a cliché, a point that they make that is overly obvious or not well thought out. Platitudes are irritation. For example to hear, "Brethren, we need to grow!!" without further explanation — well, it's speech that does not improve on silence; it has no depth and, therefore, no real meaning.

Wait, what?

There are other sayings that become common among Christians, only because they are clever. For example, I saw this statement recently: "God ruins your plans when He knows your plans are going to ruin you." Say what? It would be nice if God intervened every time I came up with a stupid plan. But God lets us make those mistakes and he lets us learn from them. Maybe the person who came up with that song has a second verse that I'm not aware of. But, as it stands, it doesn't make sense.

Romans

C.S. Lewis is said to have said, "It's all in Romans, all in Romans: bless me, what do they teach them at these churches!" We like to say, "if you get Romans, God gets you" (I first heard Jim Puterbaugh say that a long time ago).

We're teaching Romans in our 5 PM young adult class — and they seem to be getting it. Every week we give them a refresher quiz; they have to put their name on the paper and turn it in. I bragged on them last week and said they did really well the week before. One young lady looked at me quizzically and said, "really??" Yes, Romans is hard. It has lots of "terms of art" as they say in law school. Some of the concepts are mind-bending. But geometry is hard, too; history is hard, physics is hard. Students are used to "hard." Romans is just a different kind of hard and — with all due respect — much more valuable to learn than any of the above.

Do you agree?

French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, "*We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience.*" I don't have the full statement or the context, and I may be missing something, but I've been thinking about that for awhile now and it rings true. I think of Ecclesiastes 3:11 that tells us that God has put eternity in our hearts. We are eternal beings; our "human experience" will come to an end but our spirit lives on. Jesus told Martha, recorded in John 11:26,

"...everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Do YOU believe this?

dp

Reminder

We are including this information for parents and our older young people so they can be better prepared to make godly, holy choices in how they spend their time. James says, in 1:26-27, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to *keep oneself unstained from the world.*” And Jesus reminded his disciples that while they are **in** the world, they are not **of** the world (see John 15:19; 17:14, 16). The information in this column is provided to help you know what to watch for so you can pursue holiness as a chosen lifestyle instead of falling prey to the attractions all around us in this dangerous world.

Trends to be aware of...

Sharenting

Our kids are a big part of our lives, so it would be weird not to post photos of and with them, right? As kids get older, some say, no, “sharenting” is an invasion of their privacy. Just as one might share about their engagement, wedding, honeymoon, career, and moves, it’s quite normal to post photos of sonograms, pregnancy progress, birth, and other milestones in our kids’ lives. But what happens when they reach an age where they can Google themselves and find an immense digital footprint that was created without their knowledge or consent? What happens when a prospective employer can read all about their potty training struggles? Or worse?

Should they have a say in what gets posted? Ask your tweens and teens how it makes them feel.

Devices

We spend a lot of time in this newsletter discussing social media’s impact on our kids and our lives, which feels increasingly negative most days. But Ev Williams, one of the founders of Twitter, believes we are coming to a tipping point. In an interview with *Vox*, he points out that for many of the early adopters of social media, the novelty factor of scrolling our feeds is starting to wear off, and people are increasingly being made aware of the distinctions between the real world and our onscreen lives. If Ev’s right, we can expect our teens’ view of time they spend online to grow less prominent in their bigger perspective, giving them a more sophisticated view of technology than any generation before them.

If Ev’s wrong, maybe we should all think about pivoting to the [Gabb phone](#). This phone, which is currently seeking funding for larger scale production, claims most of the fun and freedom of a smartphone while eliminating much of the danger. The Gabb Wireless company cites data that 36% of children argue with their parents daily over cell phone usage (yikes), and aims to solve the problem with a device that offers no games, no app store, no data use, and, they claim, “no workarounds.” Maybe your teen could crack it in sec-

onds! Or maybe this device will finally represent a new wave of more family-friendly tech for kids.

Just in case you’re not convinced that a device like the Gabb phone has been sorely needed, *The Washington Post* recently reported on the secret trackers on iPhones. According to its report, 5,400 behavior trackers sent information off of a single iPhone off to tech companies, all day and all night long, in the span of a single week! Some of these apps were in violation of their own privacy policies, and this is certainly a contradiction of Apple’s promise that what “happens on your iPhone stays on your iPhone.” [If the best argument for a child having a phone is for emergencies — and that’s a good argument these days — then this phone, if it works as advertised, might be the answer. *dp*].

Pop Culture

Riverdale

Does teen TV seem like it’s getting darker to you? For example, while *Riverdale*’s characters go through angsty fights with their parents and painful breakups just like the teens on, say, *Beverly Hills: 90210*, an Aaron Spelling creation this is not: Archie makes pacts with his girlfriend’s mobster dad using his actual blood, and there’s so much murder! Maybe

these gothic horror tropes resonate more with Gen Z because the world around them feels serious, dangerous, and riddled with reasons to worry.

Social Media

This week in weird stuff your teen is probably looking at online: **Tea channels**. These

YouTube accounts are gossip venues for real, juicy, unfiltered information (“tea”) about influencers. While it’s completely natural to be curious about the lives of their favorite beauty vlogger or travel blogger, there’s a limit to how healthy this fixation is. It’s obvious that these influencers portray their lives as a facade, but hours spent “exposing” these facades doesn’t do much to edify our souls, either. Keep the conversation about what your teen views on YouTube and other video channels as open as you can.

Music

New Spotify data shows that Gen Z has great taste—in oldies! The 18- to 24-year-olds who make up 34% of the music streaming platform’s audience is by far the most curious and experimental with their music, according to *Billboard*. Some old-school Gen Z faves include Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, Joan Jett, and the Grateful Dead. If you’ve always wanted to talk to your teen about music but weren’t sure how to start the conversation, try making a shared playlist together (like a reinvented family mix-tape) to discover new favorites and introduce your teen to your best beloved songs.

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