

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

Make sure you get a copy of the Junior View
It's an excellent way for your kids to participate in the service today

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: David Posey

How to Be Wise: Ecclesiastes 7

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.

For Love or Money

BY DAVID POSEY

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

[Today, I'll be moving on to chapter 7 in my Ecclesiastes series so I'm covering these verses here.]

The classic statement on money is found in Ecclesiastes 5:10: "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money." A study recently found that people, on average, would like about 10% more income. But, not surprising, what do they want after they start getting the 10%? 10% more, of course.

The writer of Ecclesiastes is telling us that meaning in life is not found in getting a lot of money or status or power. He knows because he tried it and found that life was empty and vain — meaningless. He tells us that when your life is spent pursuing riches and earthly honor, no one will care when you die. Oh, they'll say some nice words about you at your funeral; put a nice, though cryptic, saying on your tombstone. But the memory of you will fade like the dew on your front lawn.

Money is a problem. If we have access to more of it, it can be one of the most difficult temptations to overcome. "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). But money is simply a medium of exchange; we go to Starbucks, hand the clerk a five dollar bill, and she gives you a cup of coffee mixed just the way you ordered it, with a little change. That \$5 bill has no value in itself. It's a piece of paper with the picture of a dead president on it. We call it cash. You exchange that cash for a cup with coffee in it and you do it without much thought.

We can do that because if we earn more than \$35,000 per year, we are the 1% of people in the world who have the highest income. \$35,000 doesn't seem like all that much but, for perspective, consider the average worker in Madagascar: it takes him five *days* to get five dollars. FIVE DAYS. The richest 80 people on Earth are now as wealthy as the world's 3.5 billion poorest people. In other words, 80 people control as much wealth as half the population of the planet.

Money has a huge impact on our lives. We not only use it to buy stuff, we use it to measure our success, which, we think, has something to do with our value in society. We use money to buy things that make us look good, to look successful — "conspicuous consumption." We use it to compare ourselves with others — many people feel superior to you simply because they have more money than you do. We feel secure when we have a certain amount of money and insecure if our bank account falls below a certain amount.

One major problem in the world full of problems is that people tend to value money and use people. Qoheleth speaks of the plight of the poor as a matter of

fact (4:1; 5:8). Most nations, including large sections of our nation, have been built by the labor of the poor. Using people to make money is a common problem. That's inevitable in any culture where the love of money is dominant.

No matter how you feel about the poor, you are naive if you don't realize that it's a get-rich scheme for the drug cartels and the "coyotes" who charge exorbitant sums to funnel people into other, more prosperous countries illegally. The poor are the pawns of politicians and outlaws; they are powerless to make changes themselves, so they stay poor.

Qoheleth does not argue that having money is evil, *per se*. In fact, he calls it a gift from God (5:19; 6:2). But how we use that gift is very important. It was important to Jesus, too.

Jesus talked about money. He talked about it a *lot*. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible contains 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions."

None of the teaching is about how to make money, with the exception of the parable of the talents and the point was not the making of money, but stewardship. Most of the teaching is about the danger of money and possessions. Jesus spoke of bigger barns and rich men who end up in hell and said that it's easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to get to heaven. We need to let that sink in.

Money is not the root of all evil but the love of money is the source of bribery, extortion, robbery, and even murder. The current problems we hear so much about all come back to money. It is the source of political corruption. Long-time members of congress are loathe to lose their place in congress, because they have gotten rich. Don't mean to sound cynical, but I am: the poor are not the donors politicians need to get elected. Politics these days takes lots of money.

One thing that sets Christians apart from the world is that we use money and value people, instead of the other way around. And there is where we find our meaning. Keeping the second of the "foremost" commandments — to love our neighbor as ourself — is the path to fulfillment. More on that later...

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“Gay Pride Month”

Who decides this? Who declares it?

Mothers & fathers get a **day**. Dead soldiers get a **day**. Military veterans get a **day**. Secretaries (or whatever the PC term for them is now) get a week. There is Black History month. And now, “Gay Pride Month.” Why?

Just a reminder, from I Corinthians 6:9-10:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

I think it’s important that we draw a distinction between the radical LGBTQ *movement* and a person, perhaps a friend, who is quietly struggling with questions about homosexuality. I make this distinction because there are several factors, in addition to the total lack of spiritual guidance from parents, that might lead a person to question their sexuality (abuse, lack of attention, etc.). We need to remember — as hard as this is to accept for some of us — that homosexuality is not a more egregious sin than fornication (having sex outside marriage) or adultery or greed or gluttony or any other lust-driven sin.

Living in today’s society is more difficult than it was in my youth. Young people today are getting mixed messages about a lot of things that were never questioned in our day. Homosexuality was mentioned only in hushed tones and never portrayed on TV or in movies (except maybe in those weird artsy movie theaters that hardly anyone went to). And this was a closed question for those of us who read our Bibles. Now, young people are being told that sexuality can be expressed in whatever form that feels “right” to them, whether straight or gay or, I suppose, something in-between.

In the 60s, the saying “if it feels good, do it” became popular. That slogan, and the motivation behind it, was roundly criticized by society at large. But the seed was planted and here we are living in a world where many people choose to do whatever what feels good, with little regard to the consequences.

In fact, those who participate in the 21st century version of the sexual revolution believe they are immune to accountability. Historically, the possibility of pregnancy was a major deterrent to having sex. But that’s not a factor in the liberal culture in which so many thrive. After all, there are several ways to prevent pregnancy but should a girl or woman get pregnant, she can choose to undo it by terminating the life of the child in her womb. This atrocity has been re-labeled as a “health care” issue and its adherents are fierce. Far left “comedian” Michelle Wolf even performed a

stand-up segment calling for abortion to be “on the dollar menu at McDonald’s,” in an effort to fight “abortion stigma.” Increasingly, groups like Planned Parenthood are defining abortion as “health care” or “reproductive health care.”

Just note for now how the arguments supporting abortion are eerily similar to those used in the 1800s to justify slavery (more on that later).

Apologetics

How Do You Explain Beauty?

Science writer Ferris Jabr, in [“How Beauty Is Making Scientists Rethink Evolution,”](#) *The New York Times Magazine* (1-9-19) asks a difficult question: “How do you explain beauty?” He quotes Charles Darwin, who believed that not everything was a result of merciless natural selection: “A great number of male animals, as all our most gorgeous birds, some fishes, reptiles and mammals, and ... magnificently colored butterflies have been rendered beautiful for beauty’s sake.”

The article is not anti-evolution/pro-creation but seeks to explain beauty with evolutionary principles. That makes for a very long article since it takes a multitude of words to explain in naturalistic terms what we believe God did in a day.

Clearly, this is an issue with which some evolutionists struggle. In an article in the same magazine in 2017, a physicist at Stanford asked, “Why is there so much beauty?” The physicist, Manu Prakash, was captivated by the patterns in seawater made as starfish larvae swam about. He put his finger on quite a puzzle: Why is there beauty? Why is there any beauty at all?

The January 2019 article referred to above goes on to say that there is such an overabundance of beauty and creativity in nature that we often don’t even have the tools to observe it. A bumblebee, as just one example, can perceive ultraviolet light. Many flowers absorb or reflect this light, and are a distinct beacon for the pollinating bumblebee. Jabr claims, “There is an entire dimension of floral beauty invisible to us ... because we do not have the proper biological hardware to perceive it.”

Jabr concludes his piece by admitting that we can’t properly grasp the elegance, power, and universal truth about beauty. “Beauty is a dialogue between (seeing) and (what is seen). Beauty is ... the impulse to recreate water lilies with oil and canvas. It is the need to place roses on a grave.”

It’s not mysterious to those of us who are captives of the Word — beauty exists because God created a beautiful world, and he did that for us. Paul, I Timothy 6:17, says that “God richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” Beauty is the product of a divine, unlimited imagination. Theories of natural selection and survival of the fittest cannot explain it.

— *via Christianity Today website*