

View

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

VBS

July 8-12. Make sure to register your children

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 corre-

Please Fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank you

Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 - Classes

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

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

10:30 - Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

2 PM Class

Room 13/14 Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

5 PM: Weekly Young Adult Class

5PM @ David & Christie Posey's home

Tuesday, 10 AM

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

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. 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.

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

Life In Jesus Christ

Gary Henry

When you get right down to it, what does it really mean to be a Christian? The New testament looks at the answer to that question from several different angles. Here is one of scriptural perspectives: “You have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Col 3:9,10). To have obeyed the gospel is to be a “new man” in Christ, and this newness has little to do with how long one has been a Christian. The aged saint, as well as the babe in Christ, is a “new man” — and he or she needs to think ever more deeply about the implications of that. If “The New Man” sounds to us like a new converts class, then that very misunderstanding is evidence of how much we have yet to learn about being a Christian.

A Dangerous Neglect. Sometimes we are guilty of failing to emphasize certain important parts of God’s word. The Lord rebuked the Pharisees for having “neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith” (Mt. 23:23). They had allowed their concern for things like tithing to crowd out more fundamental aspects of divine truth. The Lord did not condemn their concern for these details - he condemned their neglect of things that, relatively speaking, were more vital. It was not either-or, but both-and. “These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” The remedy for having majored in minors is not to leave off the minors altogether, but to get them back in their proper proportion to the majors.

What has traditionally been the general thrust of our preaching and teaching? Does not honesty compel us to admit that we have given nearly all our attention to two matters: how to become a Christian, and what to avoid after becoming one? True enough, circumstances often impart a critical urgency to these. When first-aid is needed in life-and-death situations, it is not the time for dwelling on the “weightier matters” of medical practice. All can see the urgency of instructing the lost in the first principles of salvation, and then fighting on every front where Satan is trying to destroy the Lord’s people. Still, it is true that we have failed to study and teach as we ought on what it means truly to be a Christian. Whatever he ought not to be, what should the child of God be and do? And why?

The Damage Done. We have paid a terrible price for our imbalance. In all too many cases, our level of

Scriptural knowledge is distressingly low. Fed a steady diet of topical, and usually polemical, teaching, we often betray a shocking ignorance of the overall “theme” of the Bible, the relation of the parts to the whole, and the principal concepts that run throughout all the books. Outstanding exceptions notwithstanding, members of the Lord’s body often have what could only be called a superficial devotion to the Lord himself. I am going to go out on a limb and argue that the heartbreaking prevalence of marital infidelity among gospel preachers is simply one evidence among others that our debate charts have been insufficient to build true faith, hope, and love in our hearts. When Satan can take the lust of the flesh and cut through the Lord’s body like a sharp knife through warm butter, something is seriously wrong.

Our frustrating inability to rescue any but a handful of the lost in our communities is also connected, I believe, to the shallowness of our spirituality and the lopsidedness of our approach to the Scriptures. To win the lost to our Lord, we must be showing, in deed as well as word, that the life of the Christian is superior in quality to that of the unbeliever. It is a disgrace that the real spiritual resources of many of the Lord’s people in our day are so impoverished that few could realistically be expected to look at their lives and want what they have. We have little light to let shine, and our salt has lost its savor. Until we study, and learn, and meditate upon — until we actually build into our lives — what it really means to be a “new man” in Christ, the lost will largely be uninterested.

Pure Religion and undefiled. James wrote (ironically in a passage we have often dwelled on polemically, but not very often practically), “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27). At the very least, that says true religion involves both a negative and a positive aspect. It is critically important that the Christian not be blemished by the world. But having subtracted certain unworthy things from his belief and practice, what does he do? What is he to be? That is no less important, but you could not tell it from our teaching.

God does not arbitrarily require that we abstain from certain things. He never asks us to say no to a thing unless he has something much better to put in its place. The Scriptures certainly do contain “thou shalt nots” — but these are always placed in the context of “thou shalt.” In that sense, the positive truth of what the Christian is to be is more important

("justice and mercy and faith") than the negative truth of what he must not be. The prohibitions of God's word are pointing in the direction of a higher quality life. In concentrating so exclusively on the wrongness of unscriptural ideas and actions, we have failed to emphasize the end toward which this teaching is a means. We have been losers and, what is worse, so have those whom we might have influenced in God's direction.

We face a crisis: either we truly grow in our understanding of the "new man" . . . or our grand-children will likely not be able to afford the gas to drive to the nearest sound congregation. We simply must learn, more than we have bothered to, about what life in Jesus Christ is about.

Give Him Your Best

Bubba Garner

If we're not careful, the passage of time can turn that which is special into that which is ordinary and commonplace. Once we have been engaged in some activity for a lengthy period, we often grow accustomed to doing mediocre work—whether it be at school, on the job, or even in our hobbies and other areas of interest. We do the bare minimum, just enough to get by, barely sufficient for the task, and even that much is done without our full intensity. Can you imagine if everyone worked this way? What if brain surgeons and airplane mechanics approached their daily activities with the spirit of levity with which we often approach our own responsibilities?

Solomon said, "whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10). He speaks to the need of giving our best and our all no matter what we are doing as this not only gives us a greater sense of accomplishment, but also finds favor with God. We must not allow the worship service to become some customary event in which we simply "go through the motions." We should have the same genuineness and sacredness that the disciples had the first time they ever met on the Lord's day and the first time they ever observed the Lord's Supper. The Lord rebuked the priests of the Old Law because they offered the lame, blind, and sick for sacrifice, that which they would never offer to the governor. Not only that, they were complaining about what little they did offer by saying, "my, how tire-

some it is!" (Malachi 1:8, 13). The Lord told them that He would rather have no sacrifice at all than for them to pollute and defile His altar with substandard ones. "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar!" (Malachi 1:10).

I shudder to think that this might be a picture of what we are offering. What service do we render when we don't make preparation for the period of worship by getting sufficient rest, preparing for Bible class, having readiness of mind? What great sacrifice do we make when we spend more on Sunday dinner than we do on the Sunday contribution? He gave the best of heaven and deserves the best of what we have to offer in return. This is true no matter how long you have been a Christian and regardless of how many times you have taken the Lord's Supper. Just as His care for us is ageless, our devotion to Him ought not to dim or tarnish with the passage of time.

I wonder if the Lord would rather we "shut the gates" of worship than to continue giving Him second-rate service. Give Him your best today; give Him your life, give Him your soul, give Him your all.



Read your Bible
daily

Did you know?

Delilah did not cut Samson's hair (Judg 16:19).

There was a lady named Noah (Josh 17:3).

David is mentioned 1139 times in the Bible, second only to Jesus.

When the king of Nineveh called the people to repent, even the animals were to fast and be covered in sackcloth (Jonah 3:7-8).

There is only one place in the Bible that shows Jesus sleeping; it is in the midst of a storm (Mt 8:23-27)(Mk 4:35-41)(Lk 8:22-25).

The only woman the Bible tells us to remember is Lot's wife (Lk 17:32).