

View

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

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom 8:28

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: Zach McGinnis

2 PM Class

Room 13/14 Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

5 PM: Weekly Young Adult Class

5PM @ Jeff & Sara'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

Providence?

Dee Bowman

It is almost unfair to try and write a discourse on the providence of God in so short a space, seeing that His providence touches every facet of our lives—from here to eternity.

The term has been damaged by mis-use and mis-applications of various sorts. If it can be viewed in our lives, it has to be done mostly retrospectively and not prospectively, seeing that we don't always know if a certain happening is God's providence or a "time and chance happens to them all" occurrence. However, some things happen in life—whether they be positive or negative—which speak rather clearly that the providence of God had to do with them. There are some things relative to the providence of God of which we can be sure—and for which we should ever be grateful.

Simply stated, the providence of God is what He has provided. His provisions are not what we have in some way or the other deserved, but what He has given us in spite of our unworthiness. How thankful we should be!

Be thankful for the life He has provided. (Acts 17: 25-28) The very life you live is a gift from God—for "He giveth to all life and breath and all things." Further, who and what you are is a gift of His loving care, for "in Him we live, and move, and have our every being." No two of us are exactly alike, but He has given to each of us as He sees fit. It is but ours to mold and fashion a character that is worthy of His providence by becoming all He expects us to be. Whatever you do, wherever you go, whatever you become, it all comes of the life provided by your Heavenly Father. Rejoice and be glad!

Be thankful for the information He has provided. (II Pet. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:1-2) God didn't give us life then leave us without a reason why. By his providential revelation we have been told from whence we are come, what we're to do while here, and where we're going when this life is ended. In that connection, He "has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness," or all that we need to emulate our Creator so as to "be holy, even as I am holy." Where do we go for such a high provision for life? In these last days "He has spoken unto us by His Son." He has provided answers for our questions, information for how to please Him, assurances that our faithfulness to Him is not only necessary, but, by His grace, entirely possible. We should be grateful, for He has told us what we need to know.

Be thankful for the Son He has provided (His forgiveness). (Eph. 1:3-7) Without the forgiveness of God, freely provided by His grace, we are lost and flounder in sin and putridity. He has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." What love He showed in the provision of His beloved Son, who gave Himself freely for the forgiveness of our sins, having "predestined us" (that's providence, folks) to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ. And all of it, "according to the good pleasure" of His will. What we never could have done for ourselves, no matter the effort, He in His loving kindness, has freely provided. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." What matchless love!

Be thankful for the assurances He has provided. (Heb. 6:17;

10:22-25; I Cor. 10:13). God's word is immutable. He is changeless. You can rest assured that what He has assured, He will provide. That strengthens hope, magnifies expectation, enlarges confidence, for "it is impossible for God to lie." He has given His word: "he that believes and his baptized shall be saved." He has given His word: we can "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." It is certain that "no temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common," and that "He is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." What wonderful provisions!

Be thankful for the resurrection He has provided. (I Cor. 15:50-58; II Cor. 5:1-4; Phil. 3:20-21) This world is not home. We are living in a probationary period—one in which we are provided with the opportunity of equipping ourselves for divine association—one with a new body. "Our citizenship is in heaven" where "we eagerly wait for the Savior, who will transform lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body." The resurrection of Jesus is the predicate on which our own hope of resurrection rests. Because He was, we can. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality." When that happens, death "is swallowed up in victory," and "thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 'Tis the provision of all provisions, the resurrection is. He who assured it is the greatest of all provisions by our Heavenly Father. Praise God for the resurrected Jesus!

Stop what you're doing—right now—and give thanks for the providence of God, for He has provided for all our needs.

Few There Are Who Will Endure a True Friend

Jimmy Tuten

Someone has said that there are three friendships which are advantageous and three that are injurious: friendship with the upright, friendship with the man of much observation and friendship with the man who is courteous. These are advantageous. However, friendship with the man of specious airs, or one who is insinuatingly soft, and friendship with the glib-tongued, these are injurious.

No hurt is greater than that hurt derived from deception and abuse of one thought to be a friend. A friend is someone to have in time of need and when adversity tries them. A bold foe may prove a curse, but a pretended friend is worse by far. There is an English proverb that says: "God save me from my friends; I can take care of my enemies." The irony of this is that there is some merit to it as far as some friends are concerned. Friendship must not be taken too lightly. Also we should be cautious in choosing friends, and even more cautious in changing them. Of course, the best recipe for making friends is to be one yourself.

"I often find myself," said Thackery Ritchie, "going back to Darwin's saying about the duration of a man's friendship being one of the best measures of his worth." The reckless handling of friendship is a true mark of a foolish man who will never know what true friendship is. No friendship should begin that has no intent of being lasting in nature. No one is more dangerous than a friend who isn't quite sure whether he's for you or against you.

I am thankful for my friends. They have been a source of great strength in time of need and I am glad that I made them friends before I needed them. Experience teaches us that a real friend warms you by his presence, trusts you with his secrets and remembers you in his prayers. He is one who is there to care!

Why Some Friendships Fail

Friendship has a price tag on it and some are not willing to pay the fee. To be a true friend one must be willing to do so under trying circumstances as well as in the good times. "A friend loveth at all times," said Solomon (Prov. 17:17). A friend is closer than a brother, as affectionate and trusty as one connected by the closest ties of relationship (Prov. 18:24). The Greeks had a saying that went like this: "the crisis tests a friend as fire the gold." What are some of the costs of friendship that some are not willing to pay?

(1) **The Cost of Time.** True friendship is a life-long experience. It is never temporary. This is why faith in friendship is so rare. Truly we have made the word "friend" common and robbed it of its depth of beauty. We need more friends who will joyfully sing with you when you are on the mountain top and silently walk beside you through the valley. But this takes time and some friendships cannot tolerate the wear and tear that constant use sometimes give it. One must be more deliberate in friendship knowing that it is not the promises of friendship that are lasting but the performance of it.

(2) **The Cost of Need.** It is cruel and harsh to be a pretended friend until the time of need. But need is a sure proof of friendship or often the proof of the shallowness thereof. Siracides said: "A friend cannot be known in prosperity; and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity. In the prosperity of a man enemies will be grieved; but in his adversity even a friend will depart." How demonstrable is this when one considers the lamentable cry of Job in his great misery: "All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me" (Job 19:19).

(3) **The Cost of Abuse.** Friendships are abused. For example, a good friend is one who can tell you all his problems, but doesn't.

The problem is often the result of a failure to observe that all men have their frailties and all have feet of clay. If one looks for friends without imperfections, then he will have no friends. It is sad to see insult added to injury in the area of human imperfection. One's failure to understand a particular problem is not necessarily an expression of a lack of appreciation. A friend is one who will allow the

leverage of one's imperfections to express itself, and love him at the same time. I think Thomas Jefferson said it well when he said, "I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion or philosophy, as a cause for withdrawing from a friend." One does not have to agree on all points to be a friend. Never injure a friend, not even in jest. Folks who are friends are usually people who have the same virtues, the same enemies, or the same faults.

(4) **The Cost of No Profit Or Gain.** Some will be friends if there is personal gain involved. "You pat my back and I'll pat yours" seems to be the motive involved all too often. But a friend that must be bought is not worth what we pay for him. If we can buy such a person, someone else can too. Friendship is to be valued for what there is in it, not what can be gotten out of it. To seek friendship for personal gain is as futile as seeking the end of a rainbow for the bag of gold. Too many are looking upon friends as a mutual benefit association with periodical demands and threats of suspension for non-payment. This should not be. Let us think not of what friends can do for us, but what we can do for them.

Conclusion

How sad to see friendship thrown away in a world where friendship is so rare. In times like these we need the comfort of friends. Whatever the gain, it is never so much that we can afford to lose a friend. Wise is the man who fortifies his life with friendships. To have the joy of friendship one must share friendliness. Happiness was born a twin. Guardian of Truth - November 15, 1984

Did you know?

The last word in the Bible is AMEN

The word "eternity" is mentioned only once: Isaiah 57:15.

The word "trinity" is not mentioned in the Bible.

The word "grandmother" appears in the Bible only once: 2 Timothy 1:5.

Bethlehem means "house of bread."

In the Bible, Jesus never told a disciple "I love you." However, He showed them with His actions.

Egyptians despised shepherds (Gen 46:34).

The Levites could not serve in the Tabernacle until 25 years old and had to retire at age 50 (Num 8:24-25).

Jerusalem at one time was called Jebus (Judg 19:10). It was also called Salem (Ps 76:2)(Gen 14:18)(Heb 7:1-2).