

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

Do You Feel You Are Successful?

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: The Gospel

13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

Success, Jesus Style

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Proverbs

Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday AM Class

10 AM at the Building

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: The Gospel

13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday of the month (see Tyler Wade)

Information

Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at www.folsomchurch.com for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password - protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

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.

View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

Lessons from an Apple Watch

BY DAVID POSEY

If you have and wear an Apple Watch (or a similar timepiece) every day, you know that it gives you reminders throughout the day to do things that are good for you. For example, it has several reminders that center on exercise of some kind (number of steps; movement; standing).

Right now, I'm looking at my watch on Friday, September 13th at 5:15 AM and it says, "David, you crushed your move ring yesterday. Can you do it again?" Great. Now I have to make sure I move as much as I did yesterday, or I'm a failure today. It tells me I failed miserably to actually *exercise* (only got 6 minutes in) but I nailed the "stand" ring. Apparently, I stood up often enough, but quickly sat down.

Perhaps the most interesting reminder is the reminder to "breathe." Every time I see that, I tell the watch, "I thought I was breathing but thank you for the reminder." Of course, the watch is telling me to take *deep* breaths — at least for a minute or two. It's supposed to help something called my "well-being" (if you're being is not well, Apple says they can help!).

This is all good. I love seeing how many steps I took during the day, and I can even check my heartbeat. The latest version of the watch has an ECG so you can check for atrial fibrillation (just checked: sinus rhythm; no signs of Afib, heartbeat, 59 bpm. Good to know).

I was thinking that if I owned Apple, I would produce a "spiritual-health" version of the Watch. Here's how it would work:

Instead of an app to check for Afib, how an **anger app**? When your blood begins to boil while driving, or when waiting in line while the clerk is talking on the phone, a ding and graphic shows up, reminding you to read Ephesians 4:26-27. In fact, the graphic could be the sun going down, repeatedly, to remind you to "not let the sun go down on your anger." Now, that would be useful, wouldn't it?

Of course, the watch could have a general **sin-sensor**. If you are looking at something you shouldn't, thinking ill-begotten thoughts about someone, gossiping or spreading rumor, or being jealous or tempted to sin in any way, you get a vibration on your watch with a graphic

reminding you of what is going on in hell right now — maybe a picture of worms that do not die, or fire that is not quenched (see Mark 9:43-48).

Back to that "breathe" app: it's nice to be reminded to breathe deeply — that's good for your body, apparently — but a reminder to **pray** deeply is better for your soul. The app could flash, "pray without ceasing, pray with ceasing, pray without ceasing..." (I Thess. 5:17) until you stop and pray — or turn off the app. But wouldn't you feel guilty if you did that?

The activity app, as mentioned above, is another useful app included on the Apple Watch. Getting exercise, setting goals for physical health — that's good for your body. But Paul told Timothy,

...for while **bodily training** is of some value, **godliness** is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. *I Timothy 4:8*

How about a reminder to "run with endurance the race set before us..." (Hebrews 12:1)? Count your steps, yes, but how about the steps that come from walking with God, like Enoch, who was commended because... well, he "walked with God" (Genesis 5:22, 24)?

Other apps could be reminders to put brotherly love into action; to keep our tongue from getting us into trouble; to purify our thoughts and to serve others; to get to class and the assembly — *on time*; and to practice the golden rule: to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12).

In addition, I would include an app that periodically dings with scriptures popping up to help keep our minds on Jesus and his work. When you think about it, there is almost no end to the apps that you could develop to help you in your spiritual life. But don't count on Apple to do that. We will have to develop the habits that not only keep our body in shape, but keep our soul in shape, as well.

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

John 15:19

Sermons on Cultural Issues

I got a call from a preacher in Texas several years ago asking me to come there for a week-long gospel meeting. The preacher was originally from Mississippi and spoke very slowly with a long drawl. When he told me what they would like me to preach on, he started by mentioning homosexuality but due to the long drawl, I thought they wanted me to speak on homosexuality for the whole week. As it turned out, that was only one lesson that I was to preach during the week.

I'm not so sure, though, that some churches wouldn't think that doing a whole week of lessons on homosexuality is a good idea; but I don't agree. Why? Because if someone can read Romans 1:26-27 or I Corinthians 6:9-11 and still argue that living in a homosexual relationship is OK with God then the problem is not their view of homosexuality but their view of the veracity of the Bible. Just as a reminder, here is what I Corinthians 6:9-10 says,

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.

Typically when Paul says, “do you not know...” he is telling his reader that they *should* know; that this is obvious. In this case, believing that one can practice these things and still go to heaven is patently false. One who believes that is deceived.

Our culture's view of homosexuality (and sex in general) has not changed one dot or tittle of what is written in the scriptures. The Bible is clear on the subject of homosexuality. I'm not saying that we should never preach on it, or subjects like it. But why spend 45 minutes trying to prove what is so clearly stated in the Bible? Read it, explain it, move on. Ironically, in the text above, “homosexuality” is covered in the prohibition against sexual immorality (“fornication”) since all sex outside marriage is fornication. Yet, Paul found it necessary to specifically mention homosexuality.

Sometimes, preachers will preach on subjects they know 99% of the church agrees with. There are likely many silent (or even verbalized) “amens!” (It's so easy to say “amen” when the point doesn't apply to you, only others). It's tempting to preach mostly on subjects that only offend outsiders, instead of challenging the priorities and

decisions of regular members. If we mainly preach on moral issues that few if any of our members actually struggle with, then that seems to be a waste of time.

Yet, as I said, it's tempting because it makes us (preachers) sound “strong,” and “firm” and “tough,” which, apparently, is important to some preachers and to some audiences, especially if the topic at hand does not convict *them*. Let's face it, preaching on obviously sinful moral issues is the safest sermon a preacher can preach in the average church.

Again, lest I be misunderstood, I'm not suggesting we shouldn't speak about these things — Paul did; Jesus did. But reading and defining the terms should get the job done most of the time, unless there is a specific problem in the church that we are trying to address. And, if we're going to talk at any length about these clearly immoral sins, let's make sure we cover the gamut. How many sermons about homosexuality have been preached compared to sermons on being greedy, for example? Which of those is the bigger problem for most regular church-goers?

We assume, as we must, that people sitting in the pew believe that the Bible is the word of God. If we're speaking to an audience that doesn't believe that, then we ought to preach some lessons on why it *is* God's word before quoting from it. But if people believe the Bible is God's word, then it should be enough to simply read the passages that clearly address the moral issues at hand.

Yes, some terms need to be defined. But is a long monologue on adultery or homosexuality necessary to make the point that these are sins that will condemn practitioners to hell? The same can be said about many subjects. A small, albeit vocal, minority of people in our culture believe there are multiple genders. But how many people sitting in a pew in a church of Christ building have bought into that nonsense? I don't see that topic warranting a 45 minute speech. The Bible recognizes only two genders and if people do not accept what the Bible says about it, what more can we say about it?

Just my two cents.

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