

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

Think About It

Are you reading your Bible every day; maybe even multiple times every day? Are you memorizing some passages so you can meditate on those? Are you ready to share the gospel with others because you know your Bible well enough to do it? Let God speak to you, as often as possible.

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: Zach McGinnis

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 Class: 10 AM at the Building

I Thessalonians

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.

Powerless

By DAVID POSEY

We — and about a million others — were powerless for 24-48 hours this past week. There did not seem to be any rhyme or reason to the outage; the customer relations VP admitted that PG&E did a poor job of communicating what was happening (that was a huge understatement). The whole thing was exasperating and frustrating.

Even so, I was sad to hear about the verbal abuse of PG&E employees as they tried to restore power in various places. The outage was not their fault. The company's policies and practices are another matter, and I could rail on and on about that — but that's not my point and it would be inappropriate in a publication like this.

So, I've decided the best course of action is to make this an object lesson for me to learn from. There are at least a couple of lessons I can draw from this.

First, current day Americans are spoiled. We take things for granted. Electricity — historically, a relatively new invention — is a given; we flip a switch and something magical happens. I can't even begin to explain the phenomenon yet I fully expect to take advantage of it every time. I'm spoiled. Being without power — in our case for 36 hours — made my life a more difficult and I didn't like it. Yet, I was still living in a nice, warm house, with plenty of food and water; and if I didn't like living in the dark, I could get in my car and be at my daughter's house — which had power — within 15 minutes.

It makes me rethink what we consider physical "blessings." I don't think I have ever thanked God, specifically, for electricity. And think about it: electricity is not man's invention — it is God's. Man just discovered it and harnessed it for our good.

But there's a much more important object lesson to learn from this event and it comes from Romans 5:6-8 —

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Our brief time in the dark, without access to power, reminds me that every day, every hour, *I* am powerless — I have no power to save myself; only Christ can do that. In connection with that, it also reminds me that the real power is in the gospel:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. *Romans 1:16*

We are powerless to save ourselves or anyone else. Jesus does that, through, and only through, the gospel — the good news — *"the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, ac-*

ording to the working of his great might..." — Ephesians 1:19. If I never had electrical power again, I could live; but I can't *live* without God's power to save.

Living in the dark for a few hours also reminds me that we live in a dark world. People who lost their power can yell and scream all they want at PG&E, but never realize that the *real* darkness is spiritual. Look at what John has to say about it:

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. *John 3:19*

"People loved the darkness..." So many are living that reality and they don't even realize it. It's so sad. They are depressed, anxious — yet will not admit that their problems may well be spiritual, not physical. If only they would see Jesus for who he is, and come to him, perhaps their world would become brighter. Jesus said, in John 12:46,

"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

And that should remind us that we are "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that reflects the only true Light of the world, Jesus Christ (John 8:12).

There is still another lesson we should learn. Our power went off at 12:34 AM; I woke up at around 1 AM and there was utter darkness. We have some devices in our bedroom that emit a little bit of light, but all of those were off, and since our shades were closed the darkness was almost absolute. Sorry for the negative view, but that made me think of the end of Jesus' parable of the wedding feast (*Matthew 22:11-14*).

But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen."

The very idea of "outer darkness" is terrifying. We are so used to having light whenever we want it that we forget how frightening absolute darkness can be. We do well to examine ourselves frequently to make sure we are living in the light (see II Corinthians 13:5).

Regardless of what is happening in our physical world — whether we live in darkness or light, whether we have electrical power or not — we have a choice to live in the light and to believe the gospel, which is the power of God to salvation. When we do that, lots of good things happen: we have hope in our heart, and we can help others see the light:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. *Isaiah 9:2*

“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

Politics

I rarely get into politics — almost never in sermons, and hardly ever here in the *View*. I have my own (strong) opinions, but I try to stick with what the Bible says about it (which isn't much):

“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” *1 Peter 2:17*

...and “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” *Matthew 22:21*

I think you know that the “emperor” — Caesar — who was to be “honored” would make all of the presidents in our nation's history seem like paragons of virtue in comparison. Keep that in mind. But there's an important issue that the Bible speaks clearly on that has motivated me to talk about politics in this column today. If you can't stand to hear the name “Trump,” *please stop reading here...*

...If you're still with me, my question is this; *why do some people on the left hate President Trump so intensely?* I understand he is one of most controversial figures ever to occupy the office and there is a lot that disturbs me. But why do some people hate him so much?

- His language? No because his opponents use even more vulgar language in condemning him.
- It is it his immoral lifestyle (at least in the past)? How can that be when these same people looked the other way when Bill Clinton was doing what he did in the Oval Office? And these same people almost *worship* JFK who was a notorious philanderer during his presidency; admirers still believe that Kennedy's world was “Camelot.” They can't condemn Trump unless they condemn Clinton and JFK as well (unless they are hypocrites).
- Maybe it's because Trump is mean? He certainly is, sometimes, and I don't appreciate that. But Senior citizens will remember how Lyndon Johnson (who consistently cursed, by the way) held up his pet dog by the ears — a photographer caught it, but the “scandal” only lasted a news cycle or two. Who knows what we would have heard if Johnson had Twitter.

Presidents, like everyone else, are imperfect people. Some more imperfect than others. Let's agree, for purposes of this article, that Trump is the most imperfect, flawed president ever. Personally, I've lived through too many presidential administrations to have high expectations of presidents. In fact, I don't expect a presidential candidate to do what he promises to do when he's running for office. I guess that makes every president who's ever run for office a liar.

Ideally, all of our presidents would be Christians (I've heard that James Garfield was a member of the church, but he was assassinated after only 6½ months in office, so we'll never know the effect of that).

We may like or dislike a president's policies. But I will never comprehend how one can hate a person — even a president — and then turn around and pretend he or she is occupying the “high ground.” It shows an incredible lack of self-awareness. There are even some who are publicly wishing that Trump — and in some case, even his supporters — were dead. Why?

I think I've got an answer, and that's why I think it's appropriate to talk about it here in our “culture corner” because it leads directly into one of the darkest places in our culture today. I believe they hate Trump to the degree for one main reason: *his opposition to abortion*. In the process, he has exposed the depth to which some people will go to protect abortion rights. Many Republican presidents have voiced opposition to abortion but Trump has gone beyond word to deed. He has made being pro-life a litmus test for the judges that he is appointing, including Supreme Court justices. This has so upset left-wing pro-abortion congressional members, that they are actually seeking ways to expand the court beyond its nine judges so they can pack the court with pro-abortion judges.

Perhaps some Christians are naive regarding the abortion issue. One young lady in a high school class of girls that Christie was teaching just 2-3 years ago asked “what is abortion?” Abortion is the killing, in the womb, of a child. Abortion is homicide. “You shall not kill,” is a command that applies to a baby in the womb as much as anyone else. Yet our culture winks at it and some get extremely angry when you oppose it. And don't be fooled: abortion is big business. Planned Parenthood (a *faux* business name for an abortion factory) and other companies spend lots of money supporting candidates who stand with their vile practice of supplying quick and easy abortions.

If nothing else, I appreciate that President Trump actively opposes that evil of all evils. Here's a reminder:

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:13-14

Millions upon millions of children were not give the opportunity to see God's “wonderful works” in this world because of the evil of abortion. I think this topic should be of prime importance to us as Christians.

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