

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

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

"The Joy of Believing"

2 PM Class at the Building

Minor Prophets

Room 13/14

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.

A Half-Century of Change, Part II

BY AL DIESTELKAMP

[Continued from 9/29/19 issue of the *View*. If you have comments or questions about this article contact Al at aldiestel@gmail.com or check out his web page at www.thinkonthesethings.com]

The most dramatic changes in my memory among churches of Christ took place during my youth. Even though I was aware that division was beginning to rear its ugly head, I can still remember when there was cooperation and fellowship extended between almost all congregations.

However by 1969, when we began publishing this paper, the lines of demarcation had been pretty well defined. With few exceptions, there was little communication—much less fellowship—between those with opposing views regarding church support of human institutions and the accompanying “sponsoring church” arrangement.

The changes since then that we will be noting in this article will be those among brethren who claim the more conservative approach to Bible authority. Some of these changes are clearly good, while others may be unfortunate at best, and some are inconsequential. With still others only time will tell if they prove to be beneficial or detrimental.

Technological Changes

If people from fifty years ago could time-travel into today’s congregations, they would be in awe of the changes in visual aids employed in most places. Gone are the chalkboards and handmade charts on bed sheets, as well as the overhead projectors which were just being introduced at that time. In their place are computers and projection systems for use in teaching and preaching and, in some cases, for use in the song service.

Casual Dress

One of the most obvious changes in our assemblies has to do with how Christians dress for worship. The trend today, for better or worse, is toward more casual attire. Before some advocates of casual dress in worship jump to a conclusion, notice that I am not necessarily identifying this as a detrimental change. However, I do believe one can be too casual in this regard. This includes the way preachers dress. The “in” thing is to shed the suit and tie in favor of everyday attire. Just as some visitors may feel out of place if everyone is “dressed up,” others might be turned off if they are the *only* ones in their “Sunday best.”

Song Selections

There have been many “new” worship songs made available to us in recent years. Some of these are old songs which were never included in the hymnals typically used among us. Others are songs

gleaned from contemporary writers, including some of our own brethren. Most of the new songs are songs of praise. This is a good change as long as we don’t forget the old familiar hymns which may not seem as “worshipful” but do teach and admonish (Col. 3:16).

Assembly Times Adjustments

There was a time not too long ago when one could expect that every congregation among us would have Sunday morning Bible classes and worship, a Sunday evening worship, and a Wednesday night Bible study. An increasing number of churches have chosen to adjust their meeting times to better accommodate the local members.

Many local congregations have eliminated a Sunday evening service. The motivation for this change varies from one group to another. Some make the change due to the distances members have to travel. Others hope that it will encourage members to associate socially with one another more and become a closer-knit family of believers. This is one of those changes that I believe falls into the category of “time will tell” whether it is beneficial or not.

Preacher Issues

During the 1960’s and for several years beyond, there was a preacher shortage among us. In reality, it was more of a *support* shortage. Back then it was almost unheard of for two preachers to work together in one congregation. Today it is still not the norm, but it is not uncommon. There is still the mindset among some that new or smaller congregations don’t need more than one preacher, but thankfully many have come to realize that such works have a greater need for two men than do large congregations with multiple elders.

Generally, there has been significant improvement in the support of preachers—both locally and in needy areas. As a result, preachers tend to stay longer in one location and are more likely to be able to purchase their own houses, thus benefiting from the equity that they build up.

Evangelism Methods

Years ago, almost all congregations would host a couple of gospel meetings each year. These meetings were originally used as evangelism tools. Though this was once a successful means of taking the gospel to the lost, the changes in our culture have rendered these efforts mostly unproductive in regard to evangelism. As a result, many churches have cut back on or quit having gospel meetings or have changed the focus to edification for the saints.

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“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

From Cultural Translator (10/25/2019)

The false alarms that get kids arrested

What it is: Social media posts have become an early-alert system for state officials and school administrators to be notified of potential threats. In the past year, hundreds of teens and middle schoolers have been arrested for making “threats” on Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram.

Why it’s par for the course for surveillance culture: Whenever a threat against a school is reported, it needs to be taken seriously. Proactive measures by students and school counselors are changing the way that threats are addressed, and that’s a good thing. But students are getting in trouble for posting photos of rubber bands or clips from single-shooter video games. Gen Z is growing up with the understanding that every move is being watched, and that there’s no such thing as being too careful in the media that they share online. Even the most careful and responsible teens might make a mistake sometimes, and suffer the consequences. It might be worth a conversation about the benefits and dangers of the current surveillance culture.

Algorithms are grading student essays.

What it is: At least 21 states are now using artificial intelligence to grade student essays. “Robo-grading” saves teachers precious time, and in theory, it introduces a more fair method of assessment. (Ever heard of a robot’s pet? Me neither.)

Why it doesn’t mean grading bias is gone for good: Algorithm grading is becoming more and more common in every level of education. This could make teens who think their teachers don’t like them feel more hopeful about getting a fair shake, but it could also mean that students with testing anxiety feel even more anxious — like they don’t stand a chance about a cold and calculating robo-grader. Almost all teachers are carrying a physically impossible burden of grading and paperwork in addition to their job as classroom educators, so giving time back to teachers seems like a gift that will pay dividends for their students. But grading student essays with an algorithm doesn’t mean that the grading process has been standardized, and they may only serve to multiply existing difficulties in how students are judged against their peers. Find out about the grading practices at your student’s school, and ask around to see what

the educators on your child’s team think about robo-grading.

TikTok clubs are the latest extracurricular activity to pop up on high school campuses, and they are extremely popular. As Taylor Lorenz reports for the *New York Times*, using the app “properly” takes a trained eye and a little bit of video splicing skills. Unlike many other social media apps, supporters of these clubs argue, TikTok actually teaches marketable skills like media editing and viral promotion strategies. When they take shape, these clubs combine the best aspects of more traditional extracurriculars like drama club and AV club. If your teen’s school doesn’t have one yet, chances are that one is in the works.

Do you look like a celebrity?

If your teen recently asked you if they look like anybody famous, it could be because of an app called Gradient that’s gone viral in the past few weeks. The app takes an image that you give it and creates a sort of time-lapse effect to transform your humble selfie into its glitzy celebrity doppelganger, making it a perfect tool for creating “celebrity lookalike” memes. What teens may not realize about Gradient is that when you download it, you’re able to test it for a three day trial before being opted into a monthly subscription fee of \$19.99 a month. Keep an eye on your cell bill, and remind your teen that a “free trial” often leads to a big scam. (Since the app said I look like a young Kurt Russell, I’m fine with the \$19.99 per month.*

Quote

“Under God’s economy, nothing really changes until our minds do. Transformation is the fruit of a changed outlook. First our minds are renewed, and then we are transformed, and then everything is different, even if it stays the same. God is more interested in changing your thinking than in changing your circumstances.”

Mark Buchanan, *The Rest of God* (pp. 32-33)

* Just kidding; this is a test to see who’s reading the View. I’m pretty sure a few people would challenge me on this... however... never mind.