

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21

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 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: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

2 PM Class at the Building

Hebrews (Room 13/14)

5 PM (building)

Sermon On The Mount

Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday 10 AM

Class resumes on January 28th

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

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.

The Just Live by Faith

Habakkuk had some really hard questions for God. God answered him, but the answers didn't fit the questions, at least in Habakkuk's mind. Finally, God essentially said, "don't worry your little head about it, Habbie, just trust me. When it comes right down to it, *the just will live by their faith*" (Habakkuk 2:4). That little verse is so significant that it is repeated three times in the New Testament (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

When you examine the context, the meaning is clear enough. Habakkuk had some doubts about what God was doing (or not doing) so he questioned him. But specific answers didn't come, at least the answers he thought were the logical ones. Habakkuk was bold in his questions but humble as we waited for the answer (2:1). God told Habakkuk, in effect, that we are not justified by having all our questions answered; we are justified by our faith in God.

This implies that there are only two possible attitudes. One attitude is represented by the enemy of Judah, the Babylonians (Chaldeans). God says,

Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him... (2:4a)

The other attitude is seen in true believers in God:

...but the righteous shall live by his faith (2:4b)

We see that binary principle throughout the Bible: some put all their faith in God and some trust their own power. The latter feel free not only to question God's actions, motives, intentions, and designs, but to demand that God's answers "measure up." Others say, "God knows best; I will trust Him."

This is not to suggest there is something wrong with asking questions. Unfortunately, historically, some leaders in churches have discouraged honest questions; that's an egregious error that has done more damage to churches than we can possibly measure.

Likewise, there are some who argue that we should never, ever need a study of apologetics to build faith. But that's just ignorance gone to seed. Peter used the very word from which we get the term "apologetics" in I Peter 3:15 when he said, "always being prepared to make a defense (*apologia*) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..."

But there is another extreme. If someone constantly requires "evidence" outside the scriptures before they believe, then it may be evidence of a deficiency of faith that could lead to spiritual death. The writer of Hebrews says, "without faith it is impossible to please him" (Hebrews 11:6). Sometimes that lack of faith is exposed by asking endless,

challenging "evidentiary" questions. But, as A.W. Tozer said,

We rest in what God is. I believe that this alone is true faith. Any faith that must be supported by the evidence of the senses is not real faith. "Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 12:29).

Notice that Tozer doesn't say that faith supported by evidence is suspect; all faith is a product of evidence (Romans 10:17). He says "evidence of the senses." The evidence for our faith rests squarely on the written word of God not what we can see, feel, touch, taste or hear (except through the preaching of the word of God; cf. I John 1:1ff).

Like Habakkuk, we're not always going to get the answers that clear everything up or even address our questions (ask Job about that!). But perhaps a more significant, humble question to ask is *why am I questioning God in the first place?* What's my motive? I know it's not fashionable these days to say "God said so" but every parent has done it and will continue to do it. When a two year old asks you why he can't play in the street and you explain to him all the

safety issues and he still asks you if he can play in the street, you will say, "because I told you not to play in the street and if you do, you will be punished."

I was brought up that way and it served me well — I'm still here. I was taught that mom and dad knew best. I was also taught that God knows best. So, I'm wary about approaching God in a way that would seem to be questioning his motives. Romans 9:20-21 rings in my ears:

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

Complete reverence and respect for God was drilled into me at a young age. I don't want to touch the hem of the garment of blasphemy or sacrilege.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't ask honest questions. But if our questions aim to try to test or trap God, then aren't we just like the scribes and Pharisees who tried to do that to Jesus on so many occasions?

Remember that the the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). The "fear of the Lord" means not only to fear consequences of disobedience — it *does* include that meaning — but to regard God with the utmost respect and reverence. We're seeing less of that today than ever before.

All You Need to Know About the Hollywood Culture

Michelle Williams delivered a speech about how abortion — *the premeditated termination of a baby's life* — helped launch her career as an actress and Hollywood gave her a standing ovation.

“I'm grateful for the acknowledgment of the choices I've made and also grateful to have lived at a moment in our society where choice exists,” she told the audience.

Don't miss the obvious point here: she is saying that if she had not aborted her baby, she would not be as successful as she is — not as famous, not as rich. But she takes it a step further:

“But thank God, or whoever you pray to, that we live in a country founded on the principle that I am free to live by my faith and you are free to live by yours...”

Quoting the authors of Culture Translator,

“Is she convinced that without the right to an abortion, she automatically could not have chosen who to have children with? There are so many wrong assumptions underlying her words. Like many pro-choice arguments, it sounds empowering, but as soon as one digs beneath the surface, it begins to crumble.

Yet it's so important that we do not ignore or pretend we don't see how this rhetoric permeates the culture in which our teens are growing up. And our goal should not be to shelter our teens from these opinions, but to acknowledge them and then carefully and kindly illuminate their complete misdirection. If your teen saw her speech, ask them what they thought about it.

[From Culture Translator, January 20, 2020](#)

Genesis Z & Politics

We've known for awhile that Gen Z is dedicated to activism and grassroots change movements. So maybe it shouldn't be surprising that they take the world of politics very, very seriously. A new study shows that, compared to other generations, Gen Z experiences the most stress over politics. Teens have access to unlimited information, a natural curiosity, and time at their disposal to research any political topic, but what they don't have is the experience and perspective that enables older adults to filter out or disengage from that information. Even if you disagree with your teen about politics, try to keep the conversation about it going. If politics are affecting your teens' mental health, you'll want to be the first to know.

[Higher Education... at What Price?](#)

Despite inflated costs, getting a college degree has continued to be regarded as a good financial investment in the long run. But that view may be evolving. The latest research still shows that an individual with a college degree out-earns his/her non-college-educated peers, perhaps even doubling their annual income. But with consumer debt ballooning at record rates and high-interest loans becoming the go-to path to higher education, those high earnings (see [The College Wealth Premium Has Collapsed](#)) to financial security. In other words, college may boost your child's salary prospects, but it's very possible that it won't lead to long-term wealth. Which begs the question, what is the end goal of higher education? Is it wealth or is it wisdom or maybe a combination of the two? As parents, if we reduce the pursuit of higher learning to a pragmatic end, we're teaching our kids that education only matters if and when it pays off financially. Instead let's encourage them to become life-long learners, whether they pursue a university degree or not.

Salacious Content on Streaming Services

This warning is not new, but since *Netflix** continues to release racy content it is worth reviewing. *The Netflix app has a rating of 17+ for a reason!* Kids can easily accidentally come across material you definitely do not want them to view.

Set up parental controls on your streaming services. Many will tell you to just set up a separate profile for the kids—easy! But that's not enough. The profiles are not password protected and kids can easily switch profiles. Your best line of defense is to set up parental controls. Some parents find it annoying that they have to enter a password so that they themselves can watch content**, but it's a small price to pay to protect your child from mature content!

*For what it's worth, we've decided to cancel Netflix. So much of their original content is blatantly blasphemous, which exposes their aggressive atheistic philosophy. We don't blacklist products, as a rule, but we just got sick of trying to watch a program only to it off less than five minutes into it.

** If your kids should not be watching it, maybe the password will cause you to ask if you should be watching it.

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