

“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

"Why We Preach"

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.

What's a Preacher?

By Zach McGinnis

As I sat to write what appears to be one final article to post in The View, I found myself contemplating the very title of this piece. Of all people, I should know the answer to this question. After all, I have dedicated the last two and a half years of my life to study and preparation in pursuit of becoming a full-time preacher. I could certainly give you a textbook definition of the word preacher – a person who delivers a sermon publicly. I could tell you the word preacher is from the Latin *praedicare*, which means “to declare.” I could even reference a number of scriptures pertaining to preaching. Scriptures such as 2 Corinthians 4:5, where Paul writes, “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” But I’m not sure I have a full appreciation of what it actually means to be a preacher.

On Day 1 of preacher training, David looked me straight in the eye and asked, “Do you want to preach, or do you want to be a preacher?” I’m pretty sure I was a deer caught in the headlights because I didn’t know the right answer. Mostly because I didn’t entirely understand the question. “A lot of guys want to preach, but very few want to be a preacher,” he went on to clarify. I’ve since developed a deeper appreciation for that initial question, but also get the sense I have yet to truly grasp the full weight of the matter. Paul helps distinguish between the two categories in 1 Corinthians 9:16-17 when he writes, “For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.” Paul didn’t just preach, Paul was a *preacher*.

A preacher is not a counselor. He is not a teacher. A preacher is not a performer. Not a motivational speaker. He’s not a coach, or a therapist, or a community organizer. And yet, a preacher is probably some form of all those things. I’ve often heard the remark repeated, “Preaching is unlike any other profession.” Due to its unique nature, the life of a preacher will offer opportunities unlike any other work, as well as present distinctive challenges. On separate occasions I have been warned about the danger of allowing my work to overwhelm me and consume my entire life, while conversely being advised not to fall into the trap of becoming lazy or indolent. Surely a profession that can entertain such contrasting behaviors is

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something of an enigma. Aside from this, environment, circumstances, and personality are all variables that must be accounted for in the reckoning of the occupation. Jonah could not have been the same preacher that Peter was, who could not have been the same preacher as Timothy was, and so on, and so forth. The fact that there is no proven formula for creating a preacher further

muddies the waters of understanding.

When I first embarked for California way back in 2014, I had a lot of ideas about what was waiting for me on the West Coast. Some were the product of stereotypes, some were formed by the opinions of others, most all of them

proved to be misconceptions. It wasn’t till I had walked a mile in California’s shoes that I was able to get a real sense of what it was like out here, and I’m sure my current endeavor will expose me to The Golden State on a whole new level.

It’s probably going to be the case with preaching as well. I can know the definitions and understand the related scriptures, but until I’m up to my neck in it and working it out for myself I won’t truly comprehend the complexities and intricacies of what it means to be a preacher. Someday I might be able to answer the simple question, “What’s a preacher?” But today is not that day, and tomorrow is not looking especially promising either.

Zach will be the first to tell you that when he got here, he was a newbie when it comes to this public speaking business. He often confessed his anxiety prior to preaching a sermon; and sometimes, it showed. He had a long way to go when he first began.

But Zach made the decision that he was going to be a preacher, even if it killed him. At one point, Randy and I tried. We sat in the pews in the building — just the two of us, far apart — while Zach preached his sermon; and we yelled at him, like coaches on a practice field. I think he’ll tell you that was the most uncomfortable 30 minutes he spent here at Folsom.

In law school, the better law professors make it clear that one of their goals is to try to scare you out of being a lawyer. They don’t want crummy lawyers to soil their profession. I did my best to scare Zach out of being a preacher. We spent as much time talking about the pitfalls of the work as we did about the benefits.

But Zach has proven, to me at least, that he is determined to do this and do it right. And I couldn’t be more proud of the progress he has made and I am more than pleased to send him out to proclaim God’s word. I will follow his continued growth with a great deal of interest and I expect he’ll do very well. — *dp*

Modesty – A Cultural Thing?

I'm going to talk about modesty today and you may be saying to yourself, it's barely 50 degrees outside and in the dead of winter; why talk about modesty *now*?? The answer is because Christie and I were in Hawaii last week where it never got below about 72 during the day. And let's just say that modesty — as we usually define it — is not common in Hawaii.

But modesty (and immodesty) is not as easy to describe from the Bible texts as some preachers have let on. And I can imagine a woman reading the title and thinking, "OK, here we go again; an older man telling us about what is modest and immodest."

That's not my aim. And I'll say right up front that preachers shouldn't preach on it without a reminder that Jesus put the responsibility on men to be careful what they see when they are looking at a woman:

...I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. *Matthew 5:28-29*

Truth be told, this text is clearer than the oft-quoted text on modesty. Don't kid yourself, every man knows *exactly* what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 5. It's not that looking at a woman is wrong; it is that second and third look, when the look becomes a thought that goes beyond looking, to lusting. According to Jesus, that's punching your ticket to hell.

And so, for the men, a woman's dress or lack thereof, is not the primary issue. No matter what a man sees, he is to exercise self-control. But having said that, it's appropriate to make an appeal to Christian women to seek to dress in a manner that will not tempt men to linger in their looking. And, we're not naive; we know that some women dress in order to be seen — and that's dangerous for them.

In modern day America, modesty has become a controversial topic. That's partly because it's hard to define. Let's review the main text, *I Timothy 2:9* (I'm using a translation from Greek scholar William D. Mounce):

"I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety..."

Three words are used here to describe attire, the first two of which are used only here in the New Testament. Let's take a look:

- *katastole* ("modestly") — an arranging in order; adjustment of dress; apparel, dress.
- *aidos* — ("decency") reverence.
- *sōphrosynē* — sanity, soundness of mind, moderation, female modesty, 1Tim. 2:9.

This is where it gets a little sticky because instead of applying this to the amount of clothing or lack thereof, as we normally do, Paul seems to make it about showing off and wearing costly attire, similar to 1 Peter 3:3. Perhaps covering oneself "goes without saying," and is included in the terms Paul uses. But, at the very least, modesty also includes not dressing in a way that draws attention to how well off you are.

This may be at least an equally significant application of this text for us today. Walking around downtown Waikiki you'll see stores with all the major high-end brands — Prada, Hermes, Louis Vuitton. These, and others, charge exorbitant prices for their goods (one black Hermes small clutch bag, for example, is priced at \$8200!). Now, I'm not going down the road of accusing people who spend that kind of money of materialism — that a path filled with land mines. But Paul's point seems to be that if we wear things just to be seen or to be respected in a certain way — that's not modest.

Of course, modesty requires covering up the body; otherwise, it would be hard to claim that you are being modest or respectable or decent. It's an understatement to say that immodesty is common in a place, like Hawaii, where the temperature rarely falls below the mid-70s, even at night, and reaches the 80s, even in the dead of winter.

But we noticed something this time that we hadn't noticed before: the Japanese visitors — which account for about 70% or more of the tourists — were decidedly more modest in dress than any of the other nationalities. By "modest," I mean in terms of how they cover the body, definitely not in terms of the amount of money they spend in clothing (many love Prada, Hermes, Louis Vuitton and can buy those brands cheaper in Waikiki than in Japan).

I find this interesting because Japan is by no means a country influenced by Christianity. In fact, it is second only to China in the number of people who identify as "convinced atheists." It is estimated that 70% of the Japanese people are atheists or agnostic and those who do identify as "religious" adhere to some form of Buddhism or Shintoism. Only a little more than 1% of the population identifies as "Christian."

It raises the question: "what is it about their culture that prompts them to dress more modestly than people from the US?" Is there something that we should take from that?

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