

“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: Scott Gardner

"Kindness"

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

"Bearing Fruit 101"

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>

Classes & Home Studies

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.

How Do I Make the Bible “New” Again

By Dennis Wade

This question was recently asked in the Young Adult class. The problem seems to be that the Bible isn't as interesting/exciting as it used to be. Following are several potential ways to revive personal interest and trust in God's word. The key to answering it lies within our heart and its closeness to God.

#1 – Mature as a Christian

If you grow as a Christian, you are changing even though the word of God doesn't. Through growth, our perspective of God's word changes and stays new. For example, John 8:32 meant something to me at 17 when I was first baptized, then something different in my 30's and now something else. It still means truth will free us from the bondage of sin, but...

- Baptized – I now have forgiveness of sins
- 30's – Freedom from sin empowers me to live for Jesus better.
- Now – Freedom from sin is so gracious of Jesus, my friend who saved me.

#2 – Focused effort to mature as a Christian

If #1 doesn't naturally happen, then force yourself to mature by living for Christ outside of your comfort zone. It might go something like this: I am in a “rut,” the Bible is “old,” so I need to grow. Besides being in God's word and praying, I need to do everything required to grow.

- For example, in Hebrews 5:12-14, it isn't just learning and teaching, but practicing the words causes growth.
- Churches of Christ and their members grew more under persecution than other times. Members really looked forward to hearing from Paul, Peter, and John. The word of God took on more meaning and power in their lives. (Acts 8:4, Rom 4:18-20)
- Check out the song, “You Have Called Me Higher.”

#3 – Study, don't just read. Studying infuses the word in your heart at a higher level. (2 Tim 2:15)

#4 – Study or read on a “needs-basis.”

A friend may challenge you with a question or you may prepare to teach Bible class. A need creates more relevance and immediacy, which will infuse the word at a higher level. (1 Peter 3:15, 2 Tim 2:15) I rarely grow more than when I need to study God's word and need it to strengthen me. Surely

David meant something similar in these passages from Psalm 119.

- Psalm 119:28 - My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.
- Psalm 119:50 - This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.
- Psalm 119:67 - Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
- Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
- Psalm 119:25 - My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

#5 – Read a daily devotional like William Barclay's “Daily Study Bible Series.”

#6 – See “Ten Ways to Make Reading the Bible More Interesting” (link below):

<https://drawingontheword.com/creative-ways-reading-bible/>

Quote

From an eminent evolutionary biologist:

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science *in spite* of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, *in spite* of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, *in spite* of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.

The eminent Kant scholar Lewis Beck used to say that anyone who could believe in God could believe in anything. To appeal to an omnipotent deity is to allow that at any moment the regularities of nature may be ruptured, that Miracles may happen. [Emphasis is in original]

Richard Lewontin, Evolutionary Biologist,
Billions and Billions of Demons,
The New York Review,
p. 31, January 1997

“Not wanting to appear judgmental, we mistakenly try to make biblical truth fit the culture around us.” *AW Tozer*

Kobe Bryant

At least since Princess Diana was killed in an auto accident years ago, I’m not sure I’ve ever seen more reaction to a celebrity death than I’ve seen after the tragedy that, besides Bryant (age 41), took the lives of nine people, including a father, mother and daughter. As a parent and grandparent, I can’t even imagine...

Bryant had a scandal or two in his past but by all accounts, he had changed his life and was doing some good, charitable things and seemed to be a good father to his kids; tragically, his daughter, Gianna, was killed in the accident as well.

I used to get frustrated with the amount of attention given to celebrities, compared to others, when they pass away but as I’ve gotten older, I understand. People identify, in their own way, with famous people; they see some aspect of themselves in them. At least one lesson — a common one: life is too short to take it for granted.

Definitions Matter

Every culture/society comes up with its own definitions and they can bear little resemblance to what we read in the Bible.

“**Marriage**” is a perfect example. There is a specific definition in scripture. Genesis 2:22-25 tells us that God made woman and “brought her to the man.” Adam says “she shall be called “woman” (*ishsha*) because she was taken out of man (*ish*).”

A biblical marriage is “holy matrimony” between a man and a woman. When asked about divorce, Jesus referred back to the beginning (Genesis 2) to define marriage (see Matthew 19:4-6). The state may choose to define marriage in several ways but there is only one “marriage” in the Bible. Malachi calls it a “covenant”:

...the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. *Malachi 2:14*

Identity & Injustice: another example of malleable definitions wrecking havoc on society. Male athletes are identifying as “female” then entering women’s sports competitions, often winning them. In a more serious development, a 45-year-old man — a sex offender — is arguing in court that he’s really an 8-year-old girl. He’s using that as his defense. There are also reports that a convicted child rapist is to be released from prison in Iowa because he is no longer deemed a threat since he is *transitioning to a female*. A man in the same state was sentenced to 14 years for burning a rainbow flag. That’s enough to get a “feel” for where our society is, at least in some places (for the record, I don’t “feel” this in Rescue just yet).

New Brain Scans Show Screen Time Makes Kids Dumber

Concentrated white matter invariably results in better cognitive performance in the kids who stay off screens: they focus better, learn faster, and show greater mental flexibility and creativity.

Scientists recently published images of brain scans on young children that demonstrate the effects of

reading versus using screens. In the scans of children who spent more time with books than screens (less than an hour of screen time a day), there was a concentration of white matter focused in the center of the brain. For the scans of children who spent more time with screens (more than an hour a day), this white matter was scattered. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/sdn9dk4>

LGBTQ on Sesame Street (HBO)

On January 30, the creators of *Sesame Street* announced on social media that cross-dressing LGBT activist Billy Porter, star of the LGBTQ FX show *Pose*, will appear on Season 51 of *Sesame Street* on HBO Max this spring.

Quiz

Q. Is a man supposed to be protective of women, or not? I’m confused.

A. I too am naturally more protective of women than I am of men. I was raised that way. However, I’ve also been informed that this is “patriarchal,” “misogynistic and an example of “benevolent sexism.” They need to pick a narrative, because I am confused, too.

And now, for something completely different...

“My goal is to be identified as Darwin Thompson the follower of Christ” said the Chiefs running back at Super Bowl LIV, talking about his faith in Jesus. — *dp*

From Cultural Translator

Netflix “Morality”

This week in streaming, many teens are watching Season 2 of Netflix’s *Sex Education* series. The scripted show, which stars Gillian Anderson as a sex therapist in the UK, focuses on the sex lives of teens and adults. Male and female nudity is frequent, and frank discussion of intimacy between characters of varying sexual identities is the overarching theme of the show. It’s “sex-positive,” meaning that it’s meant to help them embrace their sexual desires as healthy and natural.

Coronavirus Misinformation

Misinformation about the dangerous *coronavirus* has been spreading far and wide over social media. Two of the most popular posts on Instagram that reference the virus show people eating animals like bats and mice, playing on racial stereotypes of Asian cultures. In family conversations about the virus, it’s important to remind teens that there’s a lot we don’t know yet in terms of how this virus is spread. People of Chinese heritage deserve our sensitivity and respect at this time, and information that traffics in stereotypes shouldn’t be shared or trusted. As some social media experts noted in this report, many of these influencers are simply sharing about coronavirus in a bid to get more followers.

Cultural Translator, January 31, 2020