

October 3, 2021

The View

“Sirs, 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 located near the entrance.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

Bible Classes for All Ages at 9:30 AM

Auditorium: A Study of Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

Assembly: 10:30 AM: Speaking today: Scott Gardner

The Believer’s Peace

Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class @ 1:30 PM in room 15/16 — Hebrews

Bible Class @ 5 PM — A Study of Prayer (Auditorium)

Young People’s Class 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Middle school class: monthly

Contact Dan Stegall at 818- 209-9810)

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: A Study of Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

“You had to be there...”

David Posey

Pre-pandemic, and before the baseball season started in 2020, I had purchased two tickets to a baseball game at Dodger Stadium. It was the second game of the year and it was against the Giants. Of course, we didn't get to see that game and, not counting those cardboard cutouts of “fans” in 2020, no one saw any games at Dodger Stadium in 2020.

But I had credit for the tickets that I had I purchased so, this week, a year and 8 months after I bought the original tickets, Christie and I took a short trip to Los Angeles to attend a game. We saw — experienced — a come-from-behind win for the Dodgers, including a grand slam home run — and a fireworks show afterwards. That was fun, *but you had to be there.*

“You can do a lot of things via livestream, but you can't (1) *stir up others* or (2) *meet to encourage others* through that medium. You can't *experience* a worship assembly apart from the assembly.

You have to be there.”

The day before, we went on a tour of SoFi Stadium, the Ram's 30 billion dollar football field. The technology, the expanse of the place, the state-of-the-art everything is amazing. Sometime ago, Christie and I watched a documentary on how SoFi was built, and I've seen several games where the commentators gush over it. But TV doesn't do it justice; *you had to be there.*

It occurred to me that there is an application of this staring me square in the face. Hebrews 10:25 says (paraphrasing), “do not excuse yourselves from the assembly of the saints when they meet — some have gotten into the habit of doing that. You should be attending more, to encourage people and get encouraged, especially since Christ could come back at any moment!” The actual text says, starting in v. 24,

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

You can't do that behind a computer, phone, iPad or TV screen. You can do a lot of things via livestream, but you can't (1) *stir up others* or (2) *meet to encourage others* through that medium. You can't *experience* a worship assembly apart from the assembly.

You have to be there.

I should add a disclaimer here for those who use livestream during assemblies for one of a few legitimate reasons. Some are more vulnerable to contracting Covid and it could be life-threatening for them. Others, on occasion, feel ill — we want you to stay home, too and not risk making others ill.

I may be forgetting something — there may be other legit reasons — but my point is there is *no authority in scripture*

Junior High Wisdom!

Adam Rico, Dave Sanderson, and I had a wonderful experience this last quarter studying Proverbs with our Jr High students. One of the many things we enjoyed: having the students memorize two passages. Everyone memorized Proverbs 1:7 and a verse of *their* choosing, one that meant something special to them. Enjoy the results (and insight into their spirits) below! The number in parentheses is the number of students who memorized the verse.

— Dennis Wade

- 1:3 - To receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity... (1)
- 3:5 - Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (4)
- 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (4)
- 12:19 - Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (2)
- 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (2)
- 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (1)
- 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. (1)
- 19:1 - Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool. (2)
- 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. (1)
- 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (2)
- 24:1 - Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them. (1)
- 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. (2)
- 31:8 - Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. (2)
- 31:10 - An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. (1)

for permanent “virtual” worship. You have to be here (or in some assembly somewhere, if at all possible).

In case I'm not being clear, I'll take it a step further — and feel free to disagree (but if you do, share it with me for my edification). Those many members of churches in many places who have decided to make “livestream” their MO for “worship” are, in my opinion, putting their souls in danger. If there is scriptural justification for it, please enlighten me. But it seems to fly in the face of everything we read about God's people getting together. *You have to be there.*

Men We Support

Tim Stevens

16091 CR 424, Lindale, TX 75771

Since 2014 (*to the present*), my wife, Vicki, and I have been traveling throughout the United States, conducting gospel meetings and singings, song worship training sessions, and song worship leaders' workshops on a full-time basis. I'm truly blessed to have Vicki "by my side" – encouraging me in this type of work in the kingdom. She has been blessed with a musical background and able to share her talented alto voice with so many. Having her accompany me to congregations who are wanting to improve in their song worship, has been of such value to them and me. There are times when she'd prefer to stay home, and when she does, she is sorely missed – by me!

As we continue to try and encourage brethren in other places, I believe the one thing that Vicki and I have observed the most, are folks needing to see (& hear) the correlation between the songs we sing and the scriptures we read from God's inspired word. I'm afraid that many of us have missed that for years! I certainly have! For instance, when we sing the first, second and last verses of a four or five verse song, we sometimes overlook some key messages that the song writer is trying to communicate in the verse(s) we've omitted. Though song (lyric) writers are not divinely inspired, some are trying to convey a message that comes directly from the inspired text. To illustrate, in the hymn, "**Ten Thousand Angels**", some have missed the third verse entirely where it begins, "**When they nailed Him to the Cross, His mother stood nearby; He said, "Woman, behold thy son!"**" Just imagine that scene at the foot of the cross that day of the crucifixion of Jesus. Here, was the mother of Jesus, looking on at what sinful man had done to her son. But, that's exactly what we find recorded in **John 19:25-26** – "**Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, . . . When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by; He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"**" No doubt, the emotions of those who stood and witnessed our dying Savior that day were (& are) beyond description. Today, when we make that connection in the songs we sing in worship, it should affect our own emotions as well.

I don't mean to imply that we should be singing ALL the verses of a 3, 4 or 5 verse song, because some verses may not apply to a certain theme in our worship and some verses can be repetitious or repeating the same thing. **My point to our song worship leaders who are leading God's people in worship, is that they thoroughly read each verse of each song they lead, in order to put together a song worship service that can touch the emotions of each worshiper in their effort of praising and glorifying God.**

We are currently working with a small congregation of God's people in Hope, NM. Their membership is no more than 10. Over the years, we have had opportunities to

conduct gospel meetings and singings with these people. Sadly, many of those folks have passed away and are missed, but it's comforting to know that there are brothers and sisters still here - who remain faithful to the cause!

In September 2020, we worked with the Hope congregation for a few days and became better acquainted with a couple of new Christians. We expressed our willingness to assist in the future (without any expectation of compensation) and it happened! We have been

able to fill in for the current preacher and his wife so they could take some time off to visit family back east. Before the end of 2020, we put it on our 2021 schedule to spend two Sundays in September and October 2021. This is where we are at the present time.

We appreciate the continued encouragement and support from the church at Folsom. Some of you are aware that my sister is Paula Ladd. She and her husband, Rich, were members of the Folsom congregation for over 20 years (from 1998 to 2020). Since Rich continues his bout with cancer and currently receiving treatments at M.D. Anderson in Houston, we are getting some quality time together with frequent visits. They, both, look great! Our prayers continue for them and that the new treatments are a complete success!!

Tim & Vicki



Tim & Vicki (on the left) with the Hope church of Christ in New Mexico.