

October 31, 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

9:30 AM Bible classes for all ages

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

David Posey

Series: Jesus on Marriage

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

[No Class Tonight]

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

How Is Your Faith?

BY SCOTT GARDNER

Our current times are challenging to say the least. It may seem that we are facing things never seen before but really is there anything new under the sun? It really does not matter if the trials are something new. There are trials. They will challenge our faith. They may cause us to doubt. What can we do about it? The simple answer is stay faithful no matter what. However, that is often easier said than done especially when things seem uncertain. Here are a few reminders that will help us charter through these uncertainties.

Check your light source.

We can be drawn so deep into the cares and fears of this life that we become a reflection of our circumstances rather than a reflection of God. We worry, we complain, we lose direction, and we forget the world is watching. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount to let our light in such a way that God is glorified (Matt 5:14). Many have read this passage several times and it reminds us to live righteously and be godly examples to the world. Being a light means we are to reflect God and not ourselves. We are not the light, God is. What does it really mean to reflect God's light? When you walk into a dark room and turn on the light think about the first thing you see, maybe the chair, table, or something on the floor, the light is revealing things around you. When people meet you think about the first thing they see? What does your light reveal? Do they see patience, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, graciousness? If they see these things in you then they are seeing your reflection of God (Eph 4:21-24). If actions can draw them to God, then perhaps they too can have peace that only Christians know. So, make sure your spiritual light is on so God can show you where to go and others may follow.

Check your spiritual compass.

Trials have a way of pointing us to ourselves sometimes. They take us out of our comfort zone and reveal the many ways we have been inconvenienced. Face it, we want to live stable lives physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. The question is how much of that stability do we place in

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ourselves rather than God. Let's consider Job for a moment. Job had a good life, a really good life. He had stability in God, and we know that because when his world was turned upside down, read Job 1:13- 2:10, his spiritual compass pointed straight to God. We could take time to consider that Job worshipped and prayed to God every day. However, there is another characteristic of Job that kept him

pointed in the right direction. Job took nothing for granted. Job knew that all he had and enjoyed in this life came from God. Job was humble.

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from

my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

— Job 1:20-21

Why do we get so bent out of shape when we lose things in this life when they were never ours to begin with! In that statement lies the problem, sometimes we think things belong to us. The things of this world disappoint but God does not. Take the time to check your spiritual compass daily so God can lead you in the right direction and others may follow.

Check your communication with God.

You cannot put a price on the value of good communication in a strong relationship. Consider those in the bible who prayed through difficult circumstances. Daniel was a praying man and knew the importance of prayer. "When he knew that death may have been eminent, he prayed.

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Daniel 6:10

And Daniel trusted God no matter the outcome (Daniel 6:23). We need to do the same.

So, keep the light on, stay pointed in God's direction, and talk to Him.

Do Our Kids Really Need Spiritual Floaties?

BY DAVID POSEY

[This is an adaption of an article written in 2013 after our first “Boot Camp” weekend. It seems even more relevant now.]

We recently completed an intense study of the gospel’s purpose and effect and we did it with kids from 6th to 12th grade. This was our first “youth meeting” in many years and we determined to make it something of substance instead of a “fun” camp with a little Bible thrown in. We didn’t provide games, snacks or fluff. We preached lessons on sin, wrath and the gospel of Christ.

And the young people loved it.

We have a higher view of what our kids can understand and apply than many who are involved in so-called “youth ministries,” most of which have failed miserably to help kids grow their faith. Protestant denominations and community churches are losing kids at the rate of 70% by the time they leave high school. They are in a panic. Their recipe of rock music, smoothie stands and non-stop entertainment has failed to keep kids in church.

No wonder. These programs naively attempt to compete with Hollywood, in a vain effort to be “relevant.” In the process, they have managed to insult the intelligence of most high school students. [Update: you can now find numerous articles making this point in the “religious press” dp]

But it’s not just “youth ministries.” Some time ago, I bought a “Biblezine”; it’s a complete New Testament in a magazine format, using the New Century Version. When you get to Romans, you might expect some good stuff on the gospel of Christ, in a youth-friendly style. But, alas, when you open to the pages that cover chapter 1, you get a brief overview of Romans, but then some really odd sidebar stuff that is supposed to be “application.” In this section of Romans, that deals so thoroughly with the problem of sin among the Gentiles, including homosexuality and idolatry as marquee examples, you find this:

Q&A: Everybody else’s parents seem so cool, but mine only seem to like clothes and music from twenty years ago. What’s wrong with them?

What’s that got to do with anything in Romans 1? On the next few pages there are a host of colorful boxes dealing with such topics as *10 Simple Secrets to Better Grades*; *Looking Ahead: First Job*, and a short article on Cricket (the sport)... and that gets you through

chapter 4. There’s also a little ditty, entitled “Cool!” about Athens (makes sense in Acts 17, but in Romans 5 & 6?) and a “Smart Tips” reminding you to “wear deodorant” no joke).

In the section about the Jews (Romans 9-11), you find an article on Rugby and questions from a kid who is being forced to take piano lessons; he wonders whether the Bible says he has to or not. Seriously.

In the chapter on obeying civil government, Romans 13, there is another article on a sport (Polo) and another *Looking Ahead* column, this time to High School. You would think they could find something to apply to kids in that section of Romans — *like obeying the civil law!* — but I guess the editors feel these kids just can’t handle it quite yet.

In Romans 14-15, instead of some great application on accepting each other in spite of our personal opinions, you get some really “helpful” information like *10 ways to become better at sports* and another Smart Tip: *Trim Your Toenails*.

I can hardly wait for the “Biblezine” on I Corinthians!

Reading back over that, it sounds like a spoof the New Testament, not the real thing. I want to ask the young people: do you realize that this what some adults think of you? You can’t handle the depth, so they’ll let you paddle around in the shallow end, apparently with *spiritual floaties!* Changing metaphors can our kids handle the fastballs, curves and sliders of the gospel? Yes. [Update: looks like the “Biblezine” was last published in 2006].

When I was 11, living in Vallejo, I didn’t know much Bible, but I knew the names, numbers and positions of the starting lineups of both the San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers. That’s the time my dad paid me to memorize verses. Romans 10:1-3 was a 35 cent verse. I did it. Don’t tell me I could not have grasped the facts of the gospel if I wanted to and if I was taught how important it was to know it (my problem was undoubtedly more in the what I wanted category instead of the “taught” category; I know my parents tried...).

Our kids are not only smart, but they want to be challenged. They respond best when we believe in them, not when we treat them as a couple of notches above an infant.

Of course, we should do our best to communicate in age-appropriate language so the kids understand. But let’s not insult the intelligence of our young people by supposing they can’t understand the Scriptures and their intended application.

And, maybe it’s just me, but I don’t think Paul wrote Romans to urge us to use deodorant and trim your toenails.