

December 5, 2021

# The View

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

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## 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.**

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## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

**9:30 AM Bible classes for all ages**

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

**10:30 AM: Assembly**

Preaching Today

David Posey

***Jesus on... Contentment***

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)

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

**Bible classes for all ages**

Check out this article  
by Rowen Brown

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

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# How Do We Apply Absolute Truth To Our Lives?

BY ROWEN BROWN

**H**ow do we apply absolute truth to our lives? A lot of people would just say “be truthful” and be done with the question. But there is a much deeper meaning to our question and the first step to answering it is to find out what absolute truth is. The dictionary definition of absolute truth is “A quality of truth that can not be exceeded; Complete truth; Unvarying and permanent truth.” Can you think of something that can’t be proven wrong? That is permanent, and nothing but the truth? That is right! It’s the Bible! The Bible is the definition of absolute truth. In fact, the Bible is absolute truth! But some people argue, saying that absolute truth is not real. But think about this... By saying absolute truth is not real, you are saying that is absolutely true. The whole thing is self

“We can teach others. We can correct ourselves. We can be trained in righteousness. We can put on the whole armor of God. We can pray and worship.”

contradictory! 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reads, “*All scripture is breathed out by God, profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*” Also, Ephesians 6 talks about how we can put on the armor of God to protect and defend ourselves from Satan. So how can we apply absolute truth to our lives? We can teach others. We can correct ourselves. We can be trained in righteousness. We can put on the whole armor of God. We can pray and worship. All these things we as Christians can do to apply absolute truth to our lives and win the war against Satan. The Bible is absolute truth, so by doing what the Bible says, we apply absolute truth to our lives.

## Culture Corner

### Christ and Culture

The Christian calling is to live under the lordship of Christ in every sphere of life. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and its message impacts every area of life. Here is the greatest story ever told (arts) about what the world is truly like (science) now that a crucified messiah is King of the world (politics), a King who has formed a generous people in His image (economics) and now commissions us to teach others to obey all Christ's commands (education).”  
— Trevin Wax

### Slang

It’s impossible to keep up with the slang terms that kids use these days; about the time we adults catch on, they’ve moved on. But it’s interesting, nonetheless. The slang word **BASED** is interesting. According to *Culture Translator* (<https://tinyurl.com/yykusjlo>) it is an adjective that means foundational, unshakeable. It has evolved to mean being yourself and not caring what anyone thinks about it. It could be a TikTok comment on a post where someone displays particular confidence or expresses an unpopular opinion without fear of “cancellation,” often in a one-word comment. It can also be used sarcastically. This word caught

my eye this week because, while the sarcastic use of it may be unkind in certain situations, I like the idea of being “unshakeable” and not living your life worried about how others think about you. Obviously it can be applied in the wrong way if the “I-don’t-care” attitude is used to cover sin. But if used properly, it insulates kids from bullying and other peer pressure tactics. And, ideally, we are “based” in Christ. Psalm 16:8 says it this way:

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be **shaken**.

### On the political front...

“Democrat? Republican? Why not... neither? Reporting in the *Los Angeles Times* indicates that Gen Z dislikes both political parties. In fact, the majority of college-aged participants in a small survey reported that they have no political party association. It’s possible this is because Gen Z is generally repulsed by anything they see as a rigid ideology.”  
— *Cultural Translator*

### Movie Watch

“*Red Notice*...is Netflix’s most popular movie ever...but parents should know that there’s lots of profanity as well as some nudity ...” according to *Culture Translator’s* editors.

# Asking the Right Questions

By David Posey

I have heard it many times and even said it myself: “*there are no dumb questions.*” But that’s not true. Calling up the IRS and asking, “don’t you think it’s about time you audited me” is a really dumb question.

In Bible classes we value good, thought-provoking, academic discussions with the thrust and parry of good questions and answers, keeping Paul’s warning to Timothy in mind:

“So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.” (II Timothy 2:22-23)

I’m not going too far out on a limb to say that Paul is suggesting that engaging in foolish, ignorant controversies is a “youthful passion” — immature. John R. W. Stott says “youthful passions” refers to “self-assertion, as well as self-indulgence, selfish ambition, headstrong obstinacy, arrogance...” (*The Message of Second Timothy*, p. 73). Engaging in controversy is a way to assert oneself.

Many questions that are asked are not questions at all. They are statements of belief put in the form of a question; often, the one asking the question has already decided on the answer. He just wants to stir the pot. Or, “breed quarrels,” as Paul says. Paul addressed this in his first letter to Timothy:

“...He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction... (I Timothy 6:4b-5)

What are some “foolish and ignorant” questions that tend to come up in Bible classes sometimes? Here are three categories of questions that may be “foolish and ignorant,” depending on who is asking them (although, obviously, a new Christian’s questions are rarely if ever “foolish”).

## Settled Questions

There’s a difference in asking questions to learn and asking questions just to be annoying. Some questions have been raised and answered hundreds of times over the years and a long-time Christian ought to know the answers to them. If he or she does, then what’s the point of raising the question again and again? Some questions on authority fit into this category:

For example, “where is our authority for classes, a copy machine, PowerPoint, etc.?” The answer to that question is the same answer I heard when I was growing up and has not changed because the principles are timeless. Obviously, if asked by a new Christian, it’s an excellent question. But some seasoned Christians ask questions like this just to create confusion.

I don’t have space to review the principles of authority: commands, approved examples, necessary inference, incidentals and expediencies. And there are legitimate

questions about how we apply these principles. But the basic principles have not changed.

## Questions with no biblical answer.

A second category of questions that may simply be a ruse to stir the pot are questions that can’t be answered because the Bible does not address them. Therefore, we are not entitled to draw a conclusion. Any answer would be speculation, at best.

The classic question in this category is “where did Cain get his wife?” There is no final answer to that question, no matter what someone would have you believe. Frankly, I don’t know and I don’t care. It has no bearing on my faith. God hasn’t revealed everything to us but he has given us everything “that pertains to life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3). Speculating about this or that is a waste of time when there is no final answer. The time is better spent seeking God’s will in our life so we can live it. There is too much work to do to be distracted by unanswerable questions.

## Irrelevant questions.

A similar category of questions are those that are irrelevant to a Christian’s life today. We have to be cautious here because if the Bible mentions something, it’s worthy of our attention. But we should limit our inquiry lest we get hung up trying to figure out, for example, which books and parchments Paul might have left at Troas (II Timothy 4:13) and miss the truly important teaching in that book (or even the principle that is revealed in that particular instance).

As a young adult I sat in classes and listened to supposedly mature men and women discuss and debate Paul’s thorn in the flesh and what it might have been — for the whole class period! And I’ll never forget, a 30 minute discussion based on this question: “What do you do if you need to buy some milk and the only store open is a liquor store (!).” The “enlightened” conclusion? Make sure the milk carton is showing at the top of the bag; or don’t use a bag so people who see you know you didn’t buy liquor...

*Really?*

Paul told Timothy, in our lead text, to pursue “righteousness, faith, love and peace” (II Tim. 2:22). Before we raise potentially divisive, controversial, silly, irrelevant or well-traveled questions, we should ask if it achieves the pursuit of these qualities. If we cannot say that it does, then we ought to stay silent or ask someone in private.