

March 27, 2022
The View

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus” - John 12:21

Welcome Visitors!

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of 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 the preacher or 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.

Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM Bible classes

Auditorium: A Study of Paul's Second & Third Journeys

Room 15/16: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 12: Young Adults Class

10:30 AM Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Sermon: "Jesus on....the Church"

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

Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 on Judges

No Bible Class @ 5:00 PM

No Young Peoples Class 5 PM

Middle school class: monthly (contact Dan Stegall at 818 209 9810)

Wednesday 7PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: A Study of Paul's Second & Third Journeys

Room 15/16: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 12: Young Adult's Class

Mark Your Calendar!

Boot Camp: April 29 — May 1

Theme: What a Friend!!

More information to come.

Making Today's Worship Meaningful

Dee Bowman

Worship is vital to the spiritual welfare of the Christian. It gives us the opportunity to make our adoring reverence real, our desire to please the Master practical. Thanks be to Him, He has not left us without information as to what is pleasing to Him and how we can respect and revere Him.

First, He wants your heart. There is no true worship without the involvement of the inner man. To worship Him is to seek Him and that seeking begins in the heart. It begins by recognizing Him as the true God, as the Creator, as the Savior of mankind. It begins by acknowledging our need for Him, our respect and admiration for all He has done, our thanksgiving for His providence. Give Him your heart and you have commenced to worship Him. See Matthew 22:37.

Second, He wants your mind. Worship is more than an emotional experience; it involves the mind. It is the mind that recognizes God for what He is. It is the mind that determines love and plans appreciation. It is the mind that glorifies and exalts. It is the mind with which we ascertain what is pleasing to Him so that we may know for a certainty that we are pleasing Him. If you don't worship with your mind you don't worship at all. See Romans 1:21-23.

Third, He wants your agreement. Agreement with God equals fellowship with Him. It means you have looked at His word and agreed to be part of Him. It means He now has control of your life and that your worship of Him is not some subjective experience you have conjured up in your own mind, but the reverential respect you have determined to be acceptable to Him. You bow your knee before Him, allowing Him control of all that you are. There can be no genuine worship where there is not genuine unity. See 1 John 1:1-10.

Fourth, He wants your attention. Just because the acts of worship in which you participate are approved of God does not assure that your worship is acceptable. Worship demands attention. You can't celebrate the Lord's Supper and have your mind on something else all the while. You can't sing praises to Him and be thinking about your job, or your friends, or what's for lunch. Concentration is what worship is all about in the first place; it is a proper focus, a genuine desire to find and please the object of your affection. Tune in or you're tuned out. See 1 Corinthians 11:27-28.

True worship is good for the heart, good for the soul, good for the mind. True worship brings you into close proximity to the Father. It strengthens your resolve, guards against sin, galvanizes your hope, elongates your view. Take heed today and make your worship what it ought to be and you will leave happy and satisfied, forgiven and strengthened.

Make Sunday Special

Dee Bowman

Sunday is special. It's the day of His resurrection. It's the day of devotion to God, a day for spiritual service and rejoicing. It's the day God ordained for worship and service. It's the day when we keep the memorial of Jesus' death, the Lord's Supper. It's a day for singing and praying and being together. It's a day for spiritual feasting.

Sometimes I think we take the Lord's Day for granted. We become so familiar with it that we fail to give it the thought and emphasis it deserves. If we're not careful, it can become plain, ordinary.

Please allow me a few observations on how you can make Sunday even more special. These are suggestions, not rules; but they are worth consideration, methinks.

Dress appropriately. If Sunday is a special day, it deserves some special things. Appropriate dress is one of them. Now, please be advised that no one here is demanding that a dress code be observed, but it just makes sense that the importance and significance of the Lord's day is not made special by excessive casualness. We should not be casual in our observance of the various blessings of the Lord's day and it just makes good sense that, if things are to be done, "decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40), that proper attire is one of them. Incidentally, it might interest you to know that the Greek word translated with our word "decently" is defined a "denoting gracefully, becomingly, in a seemly manner" (Vine). Sometimes it even means "honorable."

Leave early. It just makes sense to get here on time. First of all, it indicates interest and concern. No one is advocating that we "tail-gate," getting ready for the services, but being here in a timely manner makes lots of things possible: 1) you have time to get settled and ready for worship or study; 2) you have time to get your mind focused so that when the services commence your mind is already receptive to what is about to occur; 3) you have time to divest yourself of any thoughts or anxieties that might preclude you getting the best from the services. And all it takes is a little planning. How hard can it be here a little early?

Smile. Show people you're happy to be here. When you look like it's a chore to attend, it has an effect on everybody concerned, visitors especially. A sad countenance makes the day dreary. It makes such a difference when people smile. Wrinkles disappear when faces light up. Attitudes, both yours and their's, are affected when you smile at folks. Actually, a smile can change someone's day, bring some sunlight into an otherwise dreary time for somebody. Solomon said it well (Proverbs 15:13): "A merry heart maketh a

cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.” Show people a merry heart. Smile.

Greet folks. Few things are more enjoyable than a vibrant and cheerful greeting. It makes people feel good about being here. And what’s more, it makes you feel good about being here, too. “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!” (Proverbs 15:23). A word spoken in due season seldom better used than when you give someone reason to believe that they are welcome, that you genuinely care for them. Greet the older people, but greet the kids, too. It’s good, too, to leave the place where you sit and greet some folks on the other side of the building. It’ll do them good that you came over.

Participate. Participation is an indication of interest. It means, as the word indicates, that you are taking part—part-taking. The Lord’s day is a good day to divest yourself of worldly things and think on the good things in the gospel, to get involved in spiritual matters, matters of the soul. Meditation means that we give our minds over to things that have a greater value, things that are really substantive, not just temporary. The Lord’s day is a time for contemplation of who we are, how well we are doing spiritually, how our course to heaven is proceeding, what we need to do to make course corrections, and where our real devotions lie. “I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies” (Psalm 119: 59). Be part of the whole service and you will bring a satisfaction to your soul.

Don’t hurry. Take time to be holy. Need more be said about that? I think not.

You realize, of course, that nobody can make rules of the things I have suggested. They are just that—suggestions; and it’s up to you what you do with them. But they work. I’ve seen them work.

Missed Opportunities

Clayton Wise

We live in a progressive society where it is easy to get wrapped up in our lives. Sometimes we concentrate on planning for the future along with the possibilities that the future holds. However, it is easy to lose sight of the benefits today can bring. Planning for the future is important, but it can also be dangerous.

It is unfortunate when this mentality invades our spiritual lives. When we focus on the future, it is easy to overlook the opportunities to teach others. Take a moment to think over the past week. How many people did you teach the gospel? How many people did you meet that do not know the gospel? Opportunities are there, but do we see them?

What excuses can you give for not teaching others? Some examples are, “I am teaching others through my example,” or, “That is why we have the Bible.”

People may not come to understand the Gospel by watching the way you live your life. It is important that we set a Christian example. Matthew 5:14-16 describes the Christian as the light of the world, a light that cannot be hidden. There is a problem when Christians rely solely on their example as a curriculum to teach. I find this excuse ironic. There are several Christians who claim to teach others through their example but are not good examples. Your example should be used to emphasize what you teach. Your example can help you or hurt you when teaching others.

The Christian is a soldier involved in spiritual warfare. In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul describes what we call the armor of God. Among the items mentioned, the word of God is described as the sword of the Spirit. If you were to talk to a soldier, he would tell you the weapon is only as effective as the soldier carrying it. The sword is nothing if no one uses it. In view of that, the word of God loses a great deal of its power when it is taught without a teacher. The Bible is our instrument used to teach others.

God does not expect extraordinary people to teach, He just expects people to teach. When the Gospel was first being taught, after Christ ascended to Heaven, Christ chose ordinary men to spread the Gospel. There was nothing spectacular about the twelve apostles. They were simple and plain men.

I fear, on judgment day, many people will stand condemned before God because they did not teach. I also fear that many people will stand condemned before God because they did not teach others. This reality should not be taken lightly.

If we pray for the opportunity to teach others, the opportunity will present itself. Be cautious that you do not get carried away merely in the search for opportunities. When you see the opportunity presenting itself, take it.