

May 29, 2022

The View

“Sirs, 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 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 when is passed.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: Colossians

Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts (Jonah 3 & 4)

Room 12: Young Adults Class

The Gospel of Mark.

Does the evidence prove that Jesus is the Christ?

All young adults and college age are invited.

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

“We Are the Energizers” — Romans 1:11-12

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

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

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

Young Peoples’ 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

Auditorium: Colossians

Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts

Room 12: Young Adults Class

Uvalde

Tragedically, “Uvalde” — like “Columbine,” “Sandy Hook,” Paducah, Kentucky and too many other school locations — will be always be remembered in a way the people there never imagined.

Evil had its day on Tuesday and 21 people, including 19 young children, died at the hands of deranged murderer. It brings back horrible memories of a similar tragedy at Sandy Hook in December, 2012. What the two have in common is that the shooter chose to kill very young children. At Sandy Hook, it was two classrooms of first graders (6 and 7 year olds; our grandson Reichen, who survived the shooting at Sandy Hook, had just turned 7). At Ross Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, the kids were slightly older, from 9-11.

Our first response is to say, “*what kind of monster attacks a classroom of little kids?*” The terrifying realization is that it wasn’t actually a “monster” but another human being — in this case, an 18 year old — who murdered these children. The Sandy Hook shooter, was 20 years old. In 1999, the two young men who shot and killed 13 people at Columbine High School in Colorado were 17 & 18.

What happened to these young men, all of them dead now, that they should become mass murderers? No one knows and we’ll never know. All we can do is mourn the loss of life of the very young and grieve with the parents and grandparents of these children, and the spouses and children of the teachers and administrators who were killed in these senseless massacres.

Why did this happen? How could this happen? Some will complain that God could have stopped it but didn’t; others claim that everything — *every single thing* — that happens is directly caused by God. The following statement fairly represents Calvinist theology, which is the dominant theology in “Protestant” denominations today:

“I wish very frankly and pointedly to assert that if a man gets drunk and shoots his family, it was the will of God that he should do it...” He goes on to assert, “Let it be unequivocally said that this view certainly makes God the cause of sin. God is the sole ultimate cause of everything. There is absolutely nothing independent of him. He alone is the eternal being. He alone is omnipotent. He alone is sovereign.”

— Gordon Clark, *Religion, Reason, and Revelation*, (Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian & Reformed), 1961, 221.

There are multiple statements to the same effect by avowed Calvinists, although some shroud their belief in more palatable language (see <https://atheologyintension.com/2013/03/21/2376/>). It should be obvious that ascribing certain effects to God, especially *sin*, is more than folly — It’s blasphemy! This is why I cringe when people casually say, “Well, God is control.” That needs to be explained, not just regurgitated.

We rarely know the specific causes of events, but God’s word speaks about the state of the world as it existed at certain times in history, and things don’t change all that much. For example, Jesus said, in Matthew 24:12, that prior

to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, “*lawlessness will increase and the love of many will grow cold.*” It’s hard to deny that what happened in Jerusalem in AD 66-70 seems to be happening in our world as well.

On the Uvalde tragedy, predictably, long before the tears are dry, some politicians and pundits will read talking points that never answer the burning questions or bring any satisfactory solutions. Speculations about why it happened abound but it’s a futile quest. It’s obvious that we cannot, without proof, determine causes; we can only observe and know the effects. We are hearing (again) talk about gun control, school security, mental illness, violence in movies, TV and video games, fatherless homes and a bevy of other possible causes. What is missing?

An older preacher, Vance Havner, once said, “we’re brushing away the cobwebs, but no one does anything about the spider.” News people talk incessantly about the “cobwebs” — the things mentioned above — but nobody is talking about the spider.

What is the “spider”? It is sin; it is Satan, that “roaring lion seeking someone to devour” (I Peter 5:8). Jesus talked about “the spider.”

“Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’” (John 8:34). And,

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

Sin — or Satan, the mastermind of sin — is the “spider.” But in this modern world, who wants to talk about sin? We’d rather talk about the cobwebs. What we do know is that what happened in Texas this week is a product of sin and a work of the devil and while we weep for those people who were affected, keep in mind that Satan is laughing in his sleeve because, *that’s who he is* — that is our enemy.

So why did this happen? It’s Satan being Satan. But he doesn’t want you to see him as he is, the “spider.” He wants you to focus on the cobwebs as he goes about his business of wrecking homes, normalizing casual sex, making gratuitous violence seem OK through movies and video games, promoting the killing of babies in the womb — and a host of other schemes that are common in our world today.

But Paul said, “we are not ignorant of [Satan’s] designs” (II Corinthians 2:11) and warned us to “put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

There are a lot things we can’t do but those are some things we *can* do and encourage others to do.

— DAVID POSEY

Ubiquitous Uvalde And Us

A SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS TOWN UNFAMILIAR TO MOST NON-TEXANS has now become infamous, known all across the globe. What must be said about the evil tragedy which befell fellow Texas families in Uvalde? 19 children and 2 devoted educators at Robb Elementary School lost their lives because of the wicked exercise of human free-will. Many have accused God of not taking notice nor providing divine protection to these precious lives. Some who had faith in God on Tuesday morning, were not so sure of whether God is even alive and doing well by sundown the same day. Atrocity has caused people to doubt God.

It is not my purpose to argue the case here either for or against the unrestricted application of Second Amendment rights. I am a Gospel preacher, not a legislator or constitutional lawyer. That is another substantive and important discussion our

"We Christians must be more concerned about why and how a person without any thought for God intersects with innocent human lives and coldly announces to a room of ten-year old children, 'it's time to die.'"

nation needs to have, and just as you, I have personal opinions about those issues. We Christians must be more concerned about why and how a person without any thought for God intersects with innocent human lives and coldly announces to a room of ten-year old children, "it's time to die." This villainous Uvalde teen saw himself as the "Grim Reaper," indeed. He likely knew his rampage would not end well for himself. It was his time to die, too. And he now knows God, even if he had no knowledge of Him as he murdered innocents that fateful Tuesday.

Actually, human free-will blesses us and is a part of what it means to be made in God's likeness (Gen. 1:26). A sovereign God allows man, the apex of His creation, to exercise choice in this life— either good or evil. We are not robots who slavishly do God's bidding. Neither are we so captivated by the Devil that we have no choice but to sin. The options of good and evil, blessing and cursing, are within our personal grasps. Perhaps God made us this way because He knew that chosen good is the highest good. Also, the disobedient man can never say when he is tempted, "*I am tempted by God*" (Jas. 1:13). Even the tempter himself, the Devil, does not have power over our free-will. We can successfully resist him (Jas. 4:7). If Satan leads and controls us, it is because we gave him the keys to our hearts. Human free-will is how we make choices to either serve God, or listen to the old Serpent our mother Eve encountered so long ago. It is a two-edged sword.

Should God exercise constraints when one of us goes off the rails, preventing a disaster? A god created in man's image might do so, but the eternal God allows choices.

— MARK W. WHITE, CYPRESS, TEXAS

Mark your calendar!

VBS

July 18-22, 2022

9:30-11AM

Theme: Heroes of Faith

Hebrews 11

Monday: Noah, Abraham and Sarah

Tuesday: Moses

Wednesday: Rahab and Walls of Jericho

Thursday: Gideon and David

Friday: Daniel and Jesus

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1

RESUMING ROMANS

I've decided to re-start the series on Paul's letter to the Romans that I began in June of 2020 but had to abandon after three lessons due to Covid lockdowns. It didn't make sense to try to continue it when times and places of our assemblies were not consistent.

Now that we have settled back into a normal routine, I've decided to begin again. I preached three "introductory" sermons. If you're interested, you can listen to them at www.folsomchurch.com:

- 6/28/20 – The Good News
- 7/5/20 – Grace Satisfies Our Greatest Need
- 7/12/20 – The Power of the Gospel

Also, I've got a few scripture journals that I'm willing to give away, on a first come, first served basis. These are those small, one-book ESV Bibles, with the text on one side and a lined blank page for notes on the opposite side. If you would like one, just ask.

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU GET ROMANS, GOD GETS YOU!