

June 5, 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.**

Mark your calendars!

VBS: July 18-22, 2022, 9:30-11AM

Theme: Heroes of Faith, Hebrews 11

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 Adult Class

The Gospel of Mark

Does the evidence prove that Jesus is the Christ?

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Romans 1:8-15 — “The Ideal: Mutual Encouragement”

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)

High School 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

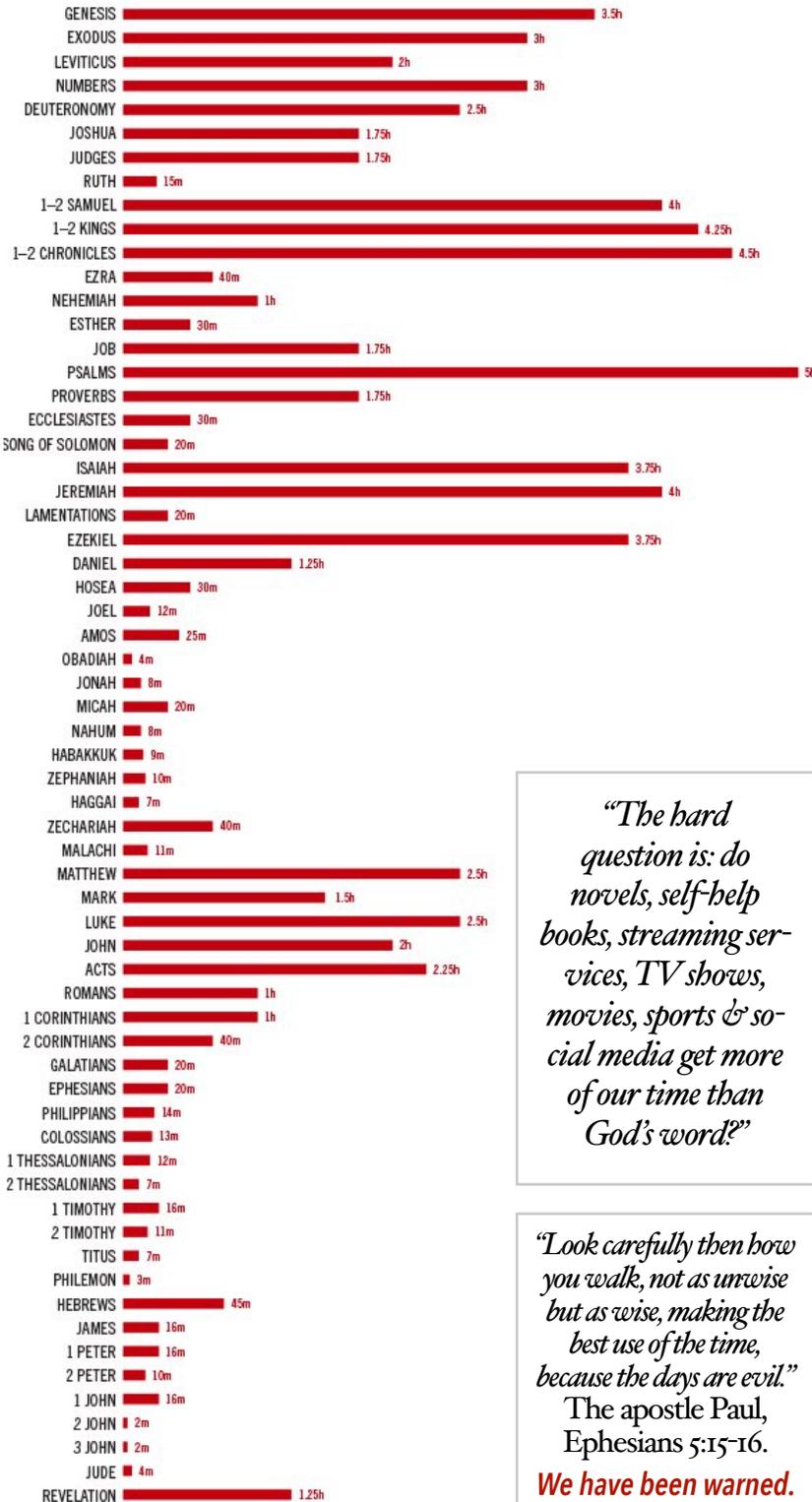
Auditorium: Colossians

Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts

Room 12: Young Adults Class

How about “binge reading” instead of binge watching?

The chart below gives the approximate time it takes the average person to read each book of the Bible. Note that you could read the fabulous book of Isaiah in under four hours. You could read the Psalms on a flight to Hawaii or New York, or read Romans in less than half the time it takes to watch an average movie. There are even sources online to *listen* to the Bible (here's a link: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/audio-bible/esv/>). Why is this under the heading of “culture”? Because today, we have a veritable plethora of choices in how to spend our time, more than at any time in the history of the world. The hard question is: do music, novels, self-help books, streaming services, TV shows, movies, social media get more of our time and attention than the Bible?



“The hard question is: do novels, self-help books, streaming services, TV shows, movies, sports & social media get more of our time than God’s word?”

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”
The apostle Paul, Ephesians 5:15-16.
We have been warned.

June is “Gay Pride Month” ...

...but according to the apostle Paul, homosexuality is nothing to be proud of. It needs to be repented of. “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,* nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” — *1 Corinthians 6:9-11*.

The noun *arsenokoitēs*, refers to a homosexual who is *excluded* from the kingdom (1 Cor 6:9) and condemned by the law (1 Tim 1:10; cf. Gen 19; Lev 18:22,29, 20:13; Dt 23:17).

Dictionary of New Testament Theology, 2, 570

Entertainment and Self-Deception

An excerpt from Samuel Parkison from his book

Thinking Christianly

Suppose you are analyzing the most recent Hollywood blockbuster with another group of friends. Let’s say it’s a really potent artifact of social commentary, with profound redemptive themes. And yes, it has some tawdry sex scenes, but they exist within a story-arch that exposes the vanity of sexual licentiousness, so at the end of the day, they are truth-telling pieces of a realistic and redemptive story. Suppose there’s another friend politely nodding, waiting for the conversation to transition into something of relevance to her. You ask her if she’s seen the movie, and she says no. No problem, you think. You love the movie so much that you suggest the group go watch it again right now! She declines, saying something about demands at home. Except you happen to know that she made plans to spend the afternoon with you and your friends, so upon your urging, she surrenders up her explanation: “That movie sounds pretty interesting, but I just don’t like the idea of spending money to watch actors pretend to fornicate.” Didn’t she just hear what I had to say? you think. You assure her that the movie’s conclusion actually vindicates her objection, and that she just needs to appreciate it as a whole—a stand-alone work of art. “I understand,” she says, “but if I were an actress, I would never feel right about exposing my nakedness—intended for my husband and no other—to a camera. I don’t want to be entertained by watching others do what I would be rightly reproved for doing.”

“Worldliness” ... must look like... something. If it doesn’t look like indulging in entertainment with no discernible difference from the rest of the world (in terms of quantity and content, specifically), what does it look like? ...Maybe what’s really happening is not cultural engagement, but just good ole fashioned cultural assimilation.

Thinking Christianly: Bringing Sundry Thoughts Captive to Christ (pp. 56-59). Joshua Press

It's The Little Things

BY RUSS CANUP

It was an amazing trip to Israel to say the least. God's word came to life even more for us as we traveled through Old Jerusalem, Jericho, the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. We were able to see how accurate the Bible is when it comes to geography. For example the Bible states that hills surround Jerusalem or, when traveling, the people would go down to Jericho from Jerusalem (Lk. 10:30). Archaeological digs have confirmed God's word everywhere we went.

On the last day of our trip we had to take a COVID-19 test in order to return to the United States and yes, we both tested positive. The Israeli government paid for our room and board while we were there.

Be that as it may, here we sit in our hotel room counting time until our release on the eighth day. As I sit here in our small room, it's strange what you discover about yourself. It's so nice to open the windows and feel the sunshine, hear the rustle of the trees, hear children playing outside, a dog barking and traffic in the distance. Yes, it truly is the little things in life that matter. I'm also reminded of when God created the world and he said, "It's not good for man to be alone." (Gen. 2:18) Whether one is a spouse or not, it's so nice to be able to interact with others, especially those of like precious faith. This causes me to think of our shut-ins or those who are still feeling isolated from this pandemic. Lord, help me to not forget the feelings of isolation — especially of those who are shut-in.

I discovered that through the tree branches across from our hotel room I could see part of the Mount of Olives and a portion of the Garden of Gethsemane. I had noticed this early on and would often stand and look out the window at this section of land. On Sunday, I'd look out at that and try to imagine what Christ was going through there. It's very humbling to say the least that Christ, God in the flesh knew what he was going to have to go through — and did! It just goes against human nature to think that as Jesus sat in the garden he could see the mob approaching via the Kidron Valley and didn't fell (John 18:1-11). Through his actions Jesus shows us how much he loves and cares for each and every one of us. What grace, mercy and love! It's difficult for me to understand the depths of God's love.

So actually as I sit here it's the little things in life that matter but sometimes they're actually very big (John 15:13).

ROMANS REVIEW

Why did Paul write Romans?

It's possible to point to several possible reasons that motivated Paul to write his letter to the Romans. In 1:5, he says that he wanted to "to bring about the obedience of faith." This goal is repeated in 16:25-27. There is no doubt Paul wrote this letter to build faith and obedience that flows from that faith. We are also well aware that he has much to say about salvation and justification by faith. But there is more.

The church at Rome was a mix of Jews and Gentiles, and even barbarians (1:14). We can assume that some of these members were rich and many were poor, some business owners and some slaves — some of the names Paul mentions in chapter 16 are names generally given to slaves. In that chapter, he mentions several women who, in those days, did not have the status they enjoy today, yet they are named with everyone else (cf. Galatians 3:28). There were also members who were well known (see 16:7), and not so well known, long-term Christians and, presumably, new converts.

Socially, economically and culturally they had very little, if anything, in common with each other. Needless to say, these differences, if not managed, could threaten the unity of the church.

To illustrate, imagine if there was a sudden influx of refugees who were converted to Christ and began attending here at Folsom. Let's say they were from Iran, Nigeria and China. They come in with their their traumatic experiences, their different languages, their particular customs, and with other ideas that are strange to middle class Folsomites. That would likely cause some difficult issues that the elders would have to deal with. Sermons and classes would focus on unity. Romans 14 and 15, Ephesians 4, I Corinthians 13-14 and other passages emphasizing unity would be on the menu nearly every week, because a church is always just a heartbeat away from division.

I've come to the place where I believe this was Paul's main, thought not *only*, reason for writing the letter to the Romans (cf. Romans 14:19; 15:1-9). It seems, when viewed from this perspective, many elements in the letter fall into place. For example Paul's first major argument is that all are sinners (3:23): Romans, Greeks, barbarians, Jews, slaves and free, men and women. All are equally guilty but all can be saved. No one in the body has priority due to status in the community or lengthy of time in the church.

Paul says that everyone who hears or reads this letter, regardless of social status, have been "called to belong to Christ" (1:6), "called to be saints" (1:7). There is no partiality with God (Acts 10:34-35). Paul makes a similar point in Ephesians when he talks about breaking down the dividing wall of hostility (2:14). He says it succinctly in Colossians 3:11, "Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."

New Testament scholar Scot McKnight believes this is at least one of Paul's purposes in writing Romans. He says, "...another approach to reading Paul's letter is one that locates the center in an ecclesial (church) setting—namely, the message of reconciliation and living in fellowship as siblings."

— *Reading Romans Backwards*, Baylor University Press

I'm excited to work on developing this theme as we move through the letter. There are many practical applications that will help us "mutually encourage" each other (Romans 1:12).