

June 12, 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 1:14-15 — Engaging the Culture for Christ

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

Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 on I Samuel

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

CULTURE

Disney's Hypocrisy

I've been to Disneyland more times than I can count, including a couple of times in 1955 when it first opened. We have friends who worked at Disneyland and it was always been a great place to go to "get away from it all." But things have changed, at least in terms of how the company operates. Their relatively recent, enthusiastic support of the LGBTQ+ "brand" has been widely reported. But Disney's hypocrisy is less apparent. Recently, Disney bashed Florida's parental rights bill, claiming that it is "anti-gay," yet it offers travel, through its cruise line, to countries where *homosexuality is illegal*. Disney cruise ships sail to Antigua, Dominica and St. Maarten, where gay marriage is banned. Disney, the original family-friendly entertainment company has become just another profit-grabbing outfit and that's too bad.

FOMO on Steroids

From *Culture Translator*, June 10, 2022

In a culture that promises infinite pleasure (or at least, infinite options for pleasure), sometimes fears can develop that we aren't experiencing as much life-satisfaction as we otherwise could be. This **fear of missing out** now pervades almost every aspect of modern life — including the way many people think about love and relationships.

In his book *The Paradox of Choice*, Barry Schwartz points out that "the very option of being allowed to change our minds seems to increase the chances that we *will* change our minds. When we can change our minds about decisions, we are less satisfied with them." But mind-changing is part of this restless desire for maximal satisfaction, which can frame even divorce as something like a "radical act of self-love." When we prioritize personal fulfillment above all else, the natural outcome is this lopsided view.

In Romans 8:12, the Apostle Paul writes: "*Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.*" In other words, as Christians, our obligation is not to our own maximal experience of satisfaction, fulfillment, and pleasure. Our obligation is to the Lord, and to the way he has designed us. And although Warren is careful to say that subjection to abuse is not part of "our design," she also writes that, "There are times in marriage when the Bible's call to love your enemies and the call to love your spouse are the same call."

Let's be clear: there are some in dangerous homes who need to find safety; they have God's (and our) compassion. There are others who, for one reason or another, are parenting alone; they, too, have God's (and our) compassion. The body of Christ's call is to care for all such people. And as part of that care, we hold out hope that the next generation can find something better.

Toward that end, here are three questions to hopefully get some conversation going with the teens in your world:

- How do you think FOMO impacts relationships?
- Do you think life is fundamentally about being happy? Why or why not?
- Do you think relationships are fundamentally about being happy? Why or why not?

ROMANS BACKGROUND

Nero's Treatment of Christians

Nero ruled from 54 to 68 AD so he was the emperor when Paul wrote the Roman letter in about 57 AD. The Roman historian *Tacitus (56-120 AD) wrote about the treatment of Christians under Nero sometime after Nero's death. Tacitus was a meticulous historian, and there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of his account. The quote below is dated sometime after the great fire in Rome in 64 AD, as the government was working to determine the cause of the fire. It gives some insight into what Christians faced under Nero (although life was a bit less dangerous in 57 AD).

"So far, the precautions taken were suggested by human prudence: now means were sought for appeasing deity, and application was made to the Sibylline books; at the injunction of which public prayers were offered to Vulcan, Ceres, and Proserpine, while Juno was propitiated by the matrons, first in the Capitol, then at the nearest point of the sea-shore, where water was drawn for sprinkling the temple and image of the goddess.

"Ritual banquets and all-night vigils were celebrated by women in the married state. But neither human help, nor imperial munificence, nor all the modes of placating Heaven, could stifle scandal or dispel the belief that the fire had taken place by order. Therefore, to scotch the rumour, Nero substituted as culprits, and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men, loathed for their vices, whom the crowd styled Christians.

"Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus, and the pernicious superstition was checked for a moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judaea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect and find a vogue.

"First, then, the confessed members of the sect were arrested; next, on their disclosures, vast numbers were convicted, not so much on the count of arson as for hatred of the human race. And derision accompanied their end: they were covered with wild beasts' skins and torn to death by dogs; or they were fastened on crosses, and, when daylight failed were burned to serve as lamps by night. Nero had offered his Gardens for the spectacle, and gave an exhibition in his Circus, mixing with the crowd in the habit of a charioteer, or mounted on his car.

"Hence, in spite of a guilt which had earned the most exemplary punishment, there arose a sentiment of pity, due to the impression that they were being sacrificed not for the welfare of the state but to the ferocity of a single man."

*Tacitus is widely regarded as one of the greatest Roman historians by modern scholars. The surviving portions of his two major works—the *Annals* and the *Histories* — examine the reigns of the emperors Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, and those who reigned in the Year of the Four Emperors.

Using the Empty Places

BY ED SANDERSON, SR

Summer. All the rhythms shift. I used to think that this was merely a matter of school schedule, but I found that working – even when I had no paid vacations! – shifted gears. Warm weather seemed to invite mental lapses. Focus was fundamental. Still is. At 72, day dreaming pulls me into dead time.

As a boy, my buddies and I used the time to ride our bikes around the town and into the country. Ten miles could take me to Brea and fifteen to Huntington Beach. Perspective shifts from Buena Park, where we lived. Baseball diamonds beckoned for “over-the-line” games with the guys. Recreation Department at the elementary permitted me to learn board games from the “big kids.” I learned so much with my “free” time. My kids also found those times of their lives useful. And my Grandkids. Some things never change.

And then came high school. Summer then became the time to “get ahead.” Summer football practice with the older kids taught me a game I had never enjoyed. Summer band taught me basics in music that we never had time for before. And I had time to take classes to free my schedule the rest of the year for advanced classes or special music or leadership classes that I could not otherwise fit into a schedule. And college let me “get ahead” through summer school classes, as well as working jobs to help pay my bills. My kids discovered the same, and my Grandkids are discovering the same truths.

“Use the empty spaces” was a slogan I learned in my college classes studying comparative religions. Empty places are “available.” They are not yet filled with the projects and assignments of the “full time work” we otherwise do. I got to choose what I wanted learn or do. We still do. The Holy Spirit teaches us that we are now born again in Christ to use these empty places. Ephesians 5:14-16 notes that the Lord tells us, “Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you, So then, look carefully how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of – redeeming or “buying back” – your time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Folsom families are now busy filling the empty spaces. Special summer Bible classes are planned and soon will be filling the time of some of our kids and many of our adult members. Travel to see relatives, friends and special places is already in full swing. And many alarm clocks are on “pause.”

But soon – very soon! – we will wake up in the fall and wonder where the time went. Of course, it went into the empty places. The books we planned to read will either be read or staring at us in disappointment. The people we had planned to visit will be memories or lost opportunities. We will be stronger spiritually, physically, emotionally – or not. We will have closer relationships and tighter teams in our work – or not.

There will be no grade cards and no final exams. But there will be our lives. We live today the life we built yesterday, and we are building today the lives we will carry tomorrow.

Homer Hailey was famously told by a Brother that he would give all he had to know what Homer knew, and Homer reportedly answered, “If you had given all you had, you would know all that I know.” That’s how it works.

There are no truly empty places.

Viewpoints

Competing Worldviews

When Christians set all issues in the context of the eternal, when we shape our view of all of life in light of the truth, what does that view look like? Point by point, it is the antithesis of the dominant world-view we see today.

- The world's view is shaped by relativism; the Christian's view is formed out of the objective, revealed truth of Scripture. It rests on absolutes.
- The world's view is secular; the Christian's view is eternal. What we do now is not passing and unimportant; it counts forever.
- The world's view is antihistorical; the Christian's view acknowledges the historical account of God's work from the beginning. History is treasured and respected.
- The world's view is naturalistic; the Christian's view is based on the supernatural.
- The world's view is pragmatic – do what works; the Christian's view is idealistic – do what is right by objective standards.

– Charles Colson, “The Body.”

Quotes

“A man's greatest care should be for that place where he lives longest; therefore eternity should be his scope.” – Thomas Watson

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

“Keep being more amazed that your wrongs are forgiven than that you are wronged.”

– John Piper

Thank you, Atheist Forum, for making our case. *dp*



CHRISTIANITY: Belief that one God created a universe 13.79 billion yrs old, 93 billion light yrs in diameter (1 light yr = approx. 6 trillion miles), consisting of over 200 billion galaxies, each containing ave. of 200 billion stars, only to have a personal relationship with you. Lol