

June 26, 2022

# The View

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

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## 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.**

## Mark your calendars!

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

Theme: Heroes of Faith, Hebrews 11

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible classes

*Auditorium: Jude*

*Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts*

*Room 12: Young Adults Class*

*The Gospel of Mark*

#### 10:30 AM Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Sermon: *“What A Friend”*

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

*2:00 PM Bible Class Suspended for the Summer*

*Bible Class @ 5:00 PM - Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)*

*High School Class, Class 5 PM @ David & Christie's home*

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

## Wednesday 7PM @ Building

**Monthly Congregational Singing**

*No Classes*

# I Can't Wait

by Dee Bowman

It seems to me that we may have reduced Bible study to a matter of obligation, when in fact it should be seen as a glorious opportunity. There is so much good that can come from Bible study. It can make a better life, it can make you understand your real purpose in life and challenge you to fulfill that purpose. It can cause you to develop a higher view of life by making you aware of what is actually important as opposed to what only seems to be so. It can make you better at whatever your position in life—a better father, mother, son, daughter, workman, citizen. It can even give you principles to guide your actions in times of duress and pressure and help you learn to deal with people on a higher plane. It just makes good sense to study the Bible.

But what don't we study as we ought?

First, let it carefully be noted that the Devil doesn't want you reading the Bible.

The Bible identifies and underlines sin; it makes it appear to be what it is—abominable. And it warns that you will be judged for having lived in sin. Satan doesn't like the fact that the Bible recommends worship and describes impiety and seeks to show you how to glorify God; and the Devil doesn't want that done. The Bible, furthermore, identifies Satan's ways (2 Cor 2:11); and he'd just rather you didn't know what he looks like or how he does things. He'd just rather you not read it for fear you will understand about life and death and judgment. So, it's possible that by not studying the Bible you're falling right into the hands of Satan.

Second, his ploys to keep us from studying the Bible are effective. They work.

"I'm just real busy right now." And that sounds right. Everyone has work to do. Oh, you intend to read your Bible, right? Tomorrow you'll get to it. And when you decide that, you have peace of mind because your intentions are good. But what happens when tomorrow comes? Same thing, same excuse, same lack of time. I'm going to. Tomorrow. That works.

"I'm really busy at work right now, but it won't be long until I get things in order and I'll study then." And jobs are important. After all, didn't God say that whoever doesn't provide for his own has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel? But such excuses only serve to keep your conscience from biting at you. They pacify you for a while. There's that intention thing again. "I'll get to it right soon," you say to yourself. Well, when? "Pretty soon," you say? When is that? See? That works, doesn't it?

"I have to take care of my kids." And that's right; they're your responsibility. You have to make sure you're getting your kids involved in good things so they'll have friends and be well-rounded. And then you have to have time to transport them to and from those activities. After all, kids are important and they're your responsibility, right? See how that works? It pits one responsibility against another and calls on you to make a choice in the matter. But what about their spiritual exercise? What about their spiritual education? What about teaching them about God and good and holiness and honesty? You will? When, did you say?

I'm afraid we've not realized the value of Bible study.

Bible study gives you the habit of rapid and consecutive spiritual thinking. When you have a good knowledge of the Bible it affects everything you do—your thinking, your language, your decisions, your attitudes, and your dispositions. You are less apt to make poor decisions when you're guided by biblical principles. When you have bible principle might nigh at all times it makes for less problems and it makes for peaceful relationships. It just makes good sense to have a good Bible knowledge.

The Bible helps you choose the right people for your friends and associates. It won't allow you to become entangled with the wrong kind of people. It will warn you when you're about to make a wrong turn or when you're going too fast, or when you need to put the brakes on. It keeps you in contact with people who share your values and who are headed in the same direction you are. These kinds of people give you encouragement, prop you up when you're down, and give you the opportunity to do the same for them.

Bible study helps develop your character. It elevates your thinking so that your potential for good is not measured in terms of excellence, not just success. It shows you the value of small things and elevates small acts of kindness to their rightful place of prominence. It identifies what is true greatness and what is only relatively so. It gives meaning to love and keeps faith active. It identifies hope and makes it a real part of a person's life and not just a wispy, non-explainable aspiration of some sort. It gives meaning to life and real meaning to life everlasting.

Bible study is just good for you. We must not neglect it. And we can't afford to not put it off, either. Why don't we just make a resolution right now that we're going to do better about it this year. And why don't we start today? Can you give a good reason why not? Time's awastin', folks!



Read your Bible

# Standing for Freedom

Ed Sanderson, Sr.

July 4th. Independence Day. Flags and fireworks, hot dogs and ice cream. It's that time of year again. We celebrate the publication of a "Declaration of Independence" – a statement that we were acknowledging a division from the government in England – a statement that our relatives "back home" called a "Rebellion." We were announcing that there was a conflict we saw necessary in order to create boundaries between powers exercised abusing us. But we wanted to make it clear that this was not rebellion merely to feel powerful. It was merely a necessary step toward having real peace.

And it was a "creed" – a statement of what we American's "believe." We see that all humans are created equal, and therefore "endowed by their Creator" with certain rights. These "ancestors" of ours – Catholics, Anglicans, Puritans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, "Friends" (or Quakers), Jews and "Free Thinkers" – all were willing to fight and die to defend rights of people whom they believed were "wrong." That is a profound commitment.

246 years later, the experiment we call "The United States" continues to include all kinds of humans, now with differing dna profiles, languages and increased numbers of Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and many other religious traditions, as well as those rejecting the traditions in which they were raised. We each are convicted that these others are "wrong" about some things, but that God or "Nature" has made each with the equal right to be wrong. To believe "any fool thing" that they think is "right" – even though being wrong has costs in the real world.

But the end-goal is not merely being "free" in the sense of cut off from life. Life requires dependence on physical reality – breathing, hydrating, nourishment, rest, exercise. Real living requires interdependence with other people – serving, being served, sharing, even sympathy, empathy and compassion. Rebellion that does not link to constructive, healthy living is not really "free."

Those of us who are convicted that the Bible helps us learn what is right see God creating all humans with free choices, even the choice to rebel against what is best for us and be "wrong." We read in Genesis 1-3, esp. 1:26-28, 2:15-17, 3:21 that He made us so we could disobey Him, so He told us what to do and what not to do and warned us that bad things happen when we disregard His guidance. He gave us this freedom – and warned us that choices have consequences. He even helped us after we did wrong so that we felt vulnerable ("naked") and were afraid. He provided protection and promises. Love for people who are wrong. And are there any other kind of people? I know many things, and some of them are true. But I learn every day, so something I used to think was "wrong."

No offence, but I am pretty sure that this is true for you, too.

Jesus told people who believed in Him that we can continue in His word as His disciples/trainees so that we will come to know the truth, and that this truth will set us free from bondage to sin – failure to be what God designed and created each human to be (Jn. 8, esp. 8:31-32, 34-36). Jesus' apostle Paul tells us that Jesus' teachings invite us to live free by using our ability to make choices to love – to value others so that we do what is in their best interest even at cost to self (Gal. 5, esp. 5:1, 13-15, 22-23 & Rom. 13:8-10). Freedom is described as having a constructive, respectful, caring direction.

Rebellion that separates us from abuse of power to love and serve is an idea that can link people of all genetic and cultural backgrounds, even when we are pretty sure that those we are loving are "wrong." July 4th can be a celebration of that great grace.

Or it can merely be a celebration of feeling powerful by outward displays of flag-waving and gun-shooting that merely invites others to imitate us in finding ways to make loud noises and display destruction for the selfish, immature goal of feeling powerful. For a minute. Until others strike back and violate us.

Balance is a hard bicycle ride in this experiment of freedom. May God grant us all the wisdom and love necessary to live free.

Have a glorious 4th!