

July 17, 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 five 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.**

VBS Begins Tomorrow through Thursday: 9:30-11AM

Theme: Heroes of Faith, Hebrews 11

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: “Wisdom from Above”

Room 15/16: Old Testament Characters & Their Relationships (no class today or Wednesday)

Room 12: Young Adult Class: Proverbs (no class today or Wednesday)

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

How to Cultivate Faith in You & Your Kids

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

2 PM Bible Class Suspended for the Summer

Bible Class @ 5 PM — Praying 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: Wisdom from Above

Room 15/16: Old Testament Characters: Relationships (no class this week)

Room 12: Young Adults Class (no class this week)

Faith: What Is It?

BY TOLBERT FANNING

Tolbert Fanning (May 10, 1810 – May 3, 1874) was a preacher and writer born in Cannon County, Tennessee. He published and edited *The Gospel Advocate* for many years.

What is this faith concerning which it is said, “By grace are ye saved, *through faith*”? There are many descriptions of faith; but almost all the definitions I have met up with have made me understand it less than I did before I read or heard them. We may explain faith till nobody understands it. I hope I shall not be guilty of that fault. Faith is the simplest of all things, and perhaps because of its simplicity it is the more difficult to explain.

What is faith? It is made up of three things—knowledge, belief, and trust. Knowledge comes first. “How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” I want to be informed of a fact before I can possibly believe it. “Faith cometh by hearing”; we must first hear, in order that we may know what is to be believed...A measure of knowledge is essential to faith; hence the importance of getting knowledge. “Incline your ear,

and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live” (Isaiah 55:3). Such was the word of the ancient prophet, and it is the word of the gospel still. Search the Scriptures and learn what the Holy Spirit teaches concerning Christ and His salvation. Seek to know God: “For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6)... Know the gospel: know what the good news is, how it talks of free forgiveness, and of change of heart, of adoption into the family of God, and of countless other blessings. Know especially Christ Jesus the Son of God, the Savior of men, united to us by His human nature, and yet one with God; and thus able to act as Mediator between God and man, able to lay His hand upon both, and to be the connecting link between the sinner and the Judge of all the earth. Endeavor to know more and more of Christ Jesus. Endeavor especially to know the doctrine of the sacrifice of Christ; for the point upon which saving faith mainly fixes itself is this—“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them” (II Cor. 5:19). Know that Jesus was “made a curse for us, as it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree” (Gal. 3:13). Drink deep of the doctrine of the substitutionary work of Christ; for therein lies the sweetest possible comfort to the guilty sons of men, since the Lord “made him to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Cori. 5:21). Faith begins with knowledge.

The mind goes on to believe that these things are true. The soul believes that God is, and that He hears the cries of sincere hearts; that the gospel is from God; that justification by faith is the grand truth which God hath revealed in these last days by His Spirit more clearly than before. Then the heart believes that Jesus is verily and in truth our God

and Savior, the Redeemer of men, the Prophet, Priest, and King of His people. All this is accepted as sure truth, not to be called in question. I pray that you may at once come to this. Get firmly to believe that “the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s dear Son, cleanses us from all sin”; that His sacrifice is complete and fully accepted of God on man’s behalf, so that he that believes on Jesus is not condemned. Believe these truths as you believe any other statements; for the difference between common faith and saving faith lies mainly in the subjects upon which it is exercised. Believe the witness of God just as you believe the testimony of your own father or friend. “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater” (I John 5:9).

So far you have made an advance toward faith; only one more ingredient is needed to complete it, which is trust. Commit yourself to the merciful God; rest your hope on the gracious

gospel; trust your soul on the dying and living Savior; wash away your sins in the atoning blood; accept His perfect righteousness, and all is well.

Trust is the lifeblood of faith; there is no saving faith without it. The Puritans were accustomed to explain faith by the word “recumbency.” It meant leaning upon a thing. Lean with all your weight upon Christ... Cast yourself upon Jesus; rest in Him; commit yourself to Him. That done, you have exercised saving faith. Faith is not a blind thing; for faith begins with knowledge. It is not a speculative thing; for faith believes facts of which it is sure. It is not an unpractical, dreamy thing; for faith trusts, and stakes its destiny upon the truth of revelation. That is one way of describing what faith is.

Let me try again. **Faith is believing that Christ is what He is said to be, and that He will do what He has promised to do, and then to expect this of Him...**

My fear is lest the reader should rest content with understanding what is to be done, and yet never do it. Better the poorest real faith actually at work, than the best ideal of it left in the region of speculation. The great matter is to believe on the Lord Jesus *at once*. Never mind distinctions and definitions. A hungry man eats though he does not understand the composition of his food, the anatomy of his mouth, or the process of digestion: he lives because he eats. Another far more clever person understands thoroughly the science of nutrition; but if he does not eat he will die, with all his knowledge. There are, no doubt, many at this hour in Hell who understood the doctrine of faith, but did not believe. On the other hand, not one who has trusted in the Lord Jesus has ever been cast out, though he may never have been able intelligently to define his faith. Oh dear reader, receive the Lord Jesus into your soul, and you shall live forever! “He that believes in Him hath everlasting life.”

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Love Your Enemies

Steve Wolfgang posted this on Facebook recently and commented that “things have not improved since this first appeared a couple of years ago. Sad to say it seems to describe many Christians.” It’s from Arthur C. Brooks, *Love Your Enemies*. HarperCollins/Broadside.

You might be getting the impression that this is yet another one of those books calling for more civility in our political discourse and tolerance of differing points of view. It isn’t. Those standards are pitifully low. Don’t believe it? Tell people, “My spouse and I are civil to each other,” and they’ll tell you to get counseling. Or say, “My coworkers tolerate me,” and they’ll ask how your job search is going.

I want something more radical and subversive than civility and tolerance, something that speaks to my heart’s desire — the first word in this book’s title: love. And not just love for friends and those who agree with me, but rather, love for those who disagree with me as well.

But love for whom? Love for your friends—that’s easy. Love for strangers? Doable. But to love your enemies? Maybe this seems impossible to you. You might say, “There are some who are simply beyond the pale. There are millions of awful people in this country who advocate ideas that we cannot tolerate. They deserve our contempt, not our love!” I have heard this sentiment from serious journalists, respected academics, and mainstream politicians. I have thought it myself.

That attitude is both wrong and dangerously radical. Anyone who can’t tell the difference between an ordinary Bernie Sanders supporter and a Stalinist revolutionary, or between Donald Trump’s average voter and a Nazi, is either willfully ignorant or needs to get out of the house more.

Today, our public discourse is shockingly hyperbolic in ascribing historically murderous ideologies to the tens of millions of ordinary Americans with whom we strongly disagree. Just because you disagree with something doesn’t mean it’s hate speech or the person saying it is a deviant.

Furthermore, this contempt is based on a mistaken assumption—that there is no room for common ground, so there is no reason not to polarize with insults.

And the people who say these things openly? There is a tendency to revert to the old joke that if you wrestle a pig, you get muddy and the pig likes it. But ignoring voices of hate is a mistake. If we do, the ideas go unchallenged by people of goodwill. And if these people have views that are truly worthy of contempt? Remember that their views might be, but that no person is. Repudiate their views, confidently and concisely, with respect.

Finally, there is a practical, albeit self-interested, reason to avoid contempt, even for those with whom you disagree most strongly. It’s horrible for you. You will see in this book that contempt makes you unhappy, unhealthy, and unattractive even to those who agree with you. Hating others is associated with depression. Contempt will wreck your relationships and harm your health. It is a dangerous vice, like smoking or drinking too much.

CULTURE

WHO are we going to believe?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that “sex is not limited to male or female.” The WHO stated it is modernizing its “gender mainstreaming manual” originally published in 2011, saying that the guidance used by health professionals worldwide is being updated based on “new scientific evidence and conceptual progress” on gender, health and development.” Wait: “Scientific evidence that sex is not limited to male or female”? What “science”?

“The wording regarding there being more than male and female sexes is concerning,” Dr. Karleen Gribble told the Daily Mail. “The website says that the handbook is being updated in light of new scientific evidence and conceptual progress on gender, health and development but there’s no ‘scientific evidence’ suggesting more than two sexes,” Gribble said. “Rather, the idea that there are more than two sexes, is a postmodern, unscientific understanding that should not be supported by the WHO.” And, as a reminder, God says,

“This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.” *Genesis 5:1-2*.

Ultra cringeworthy News...

Children as young as 9-years-old in Washington state will be taught about “all kinds of sexual activities,” in a workshop offered by the director of the Bellingham School District.

Jenn Mason is hosting four three-hour sexual education classes in August at her sex shop WinkWink Boutique as part of an event series dubbed the “UnCringe Academy,” Britain’s Daily Mail news outlet reported on July 5.

The courses are broken down by age with children 9 to 12 in one class, and children 13 to 17 years old in another. The classes cost \$50 each, but scholarships are available.

Among the topics Mason will present in the workshop are: “What IS sex? Kinds of solo and partnered sexual activities,” “sexual anatomy for pleasure and reproduction,” “gender and sexual identities,” and “safer sex practices for all kinds of sexual activities.” Children as young as 9-years-old in Washington state will be taught about “all kinds of sexual activities,” in a workshop offered by the director of the Bellingham School District, a report said.

