

July 24, 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.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: “Wisdom from Above”

Room 15/16: Old Testament Characters & Their Relationships)

Room 12: Young Adult Class: Proverbs

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

“Out of This World”

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)

Room 12: Young Adults Class

CULTURE: “WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD?”

When G. K. Chesterton was asked to write an article in the *London Times* under the title, “What is Wrong with the World?,” he sent a telegraph back to the *Times* that simply said, “I am.”

That reminds me to be careful about harping on all the things I think are wrong with the world without the discipline of looking inward. It’s easy to focus on the extreme immorality and godliness that we see in the world and begin to feel pretty good about ourselves. We should be repelled by those who, for example, promote the killing of a baby in the womb because it impedes their freedom to engage in spontaneous sexual encounters (and, yes, some make that argument without embarrassment). But God doesn’t grade on the curve; I am not good because others are bad. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Think about it: Paul lists “disobedience to parents” right under “haters of God” in Romans 1:30. Categorizing sin to make yourself feel better may be the most dangerous thing you can do.

Having said all that, we are witnessing some of the most grotesque and barbaric attitudes and actions in history — sick, slimy stuff. If you want to know why, look no further than **Romans 1:18**: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” “Suppress” is the Greek word, *katéxō*; — to hold back; to stifle; to hide. Romans commentators Sanday & Headlam say, “they stifle and suppress the truth within them while they go on still in their wrong-doing. It is not merely ignorance. All that may be known of God he has revealed in their hearts and consciences” (see Ephesians 4:18).

These people “hold down the truth” for their own selfish, ungodly reasons. It’s nothing new. In **Jeremiah 6:13-16** the people sought out prophets who would hide the truth from them, to make them feel better. They say, “Peace, peace where there is no peace,” said Jeremiah. The result? People didn’t blush even though they witnessed unprecedented abominations committed right before their eyes (v. 15).

Jeremiah prophesied during a time when the people were swimming in cesspool of evil. In Jeremiah 36, we read that God told Jeremiah to write down in a scroll the warning that God would punish them but also that God was offering them a way to avoid destruction if they repented. Jeremiah dictated God’s word — the truth — and a man named Baruch wrote it down and delivered it to some officials who, in turn, delivered it to the king. A man named Jehudi was reading God’s warning to the king. What did the king do? “As Jehudi read three or four

columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire...”

Jehoiakim not only suppressed the truth, he literally burned it up. Again, this is nothing new. I heard about a woman who owned and read a Bible but she tore all pages out of the book of Acts that spoke of baptism. Few would tear pages out of the Bible but many read the Bible selectively, ignoring the texts that they don’t like.

There are good stories, too. A teenaged Jewish girl asked her parents about the person that Isaiah 53 was referring to. The parents told her, “you don’t need to worry about that.” That only made the young girl more curious. She tore those pages out of the Bible, tucked them away

and, years later, read them again, and was converted to Christ — just like the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Why do people suppress the truth? What are they afraid of? It’s not a mystery. If Romans 1:18 is true, then there are unthinkable consequences for sin — nothing less than the wrath of almighty God, who created the world and everything in it. So people foolishly choose to ignore it and do what they want. Eventually they get to the place where there is no hope for them. In Romans 1:24, 26, 28, Paul speaks of those who God has “given over.” While no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace, there are people who have gone so far that there appears to be no turning back (see 1 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:19).

Every day, if we pay attention at all, we are aware of news and events that illustrate the tidal wave of decadence in our society. Just a few days ago, the President’s Science Adviser Nominee said that giving puberty blockers to and performing surgeries on minors in the name of “gender affirming care” is considered “settled science.” And this past week, the house passed a bill to codify same-sex marriage and a “non-binary teacher” says she read a book about pronouns and gender identity to her students and then two students, *including a first grader*, came out as trans. In another case, a “drag queen show” was put on for young kids. And we still don’t know what prominent men and women were involved in Jeffrey Epstein’s sick pedophilia enterprise. That’s being kept under wraps for reasons you can easily guess.

If you wonder how the world — how *America* — has gotten to where we are, the answer is in Romans 1:18. We live in a world where suppressing the truth is what some individuals, the media and the entertainment culture do, and it is poisoning society.

— David Posey

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” (ESV)

Is it Universe or Ages?

BY TERRY RAPOSA

The word that seems to command the attention of the reader in the verse above is the word “universe” because of its expansive and cosmic connotation. The word “universe” comes from the Greek word *aion* and according to the Oxford dictionary, it is also where we get the English word “eon” which refers to an indefinite and long period of time. This is the only place in the New Testament where “*aion*” is translated “universe.” It is also noteworthy that “*kosmos*” does not appear in this verse.

Hebrews 11:3 is often cited to prove that God created the universe and that is what inspired the icons of faith mentioned in this chapter to remain faithful. Not that there is any doubt about God as Creator, but the question is, is that what this verse is saying? It is helpful to define the key words in this verse in order to best answer this question:

Universe: *aion* (Strong #165) is defined as an unbroken age, a perpetuity of time; it is also translated “worlds” or “ages.” It is translated according to this definition in numerous places in the New Testament. Examples are Matt. 12:32 and 28:20, “...the age to come” and “...the end of the age” is how the reading goes. It is translated “worlds” in the NASB which has the footnote “ages.” It is translated “worlds” in the NKJV.

Created: *kartartizo* (Strong #2675) to prepare, equip, arrange, or perfect. God created the universe, which raises the question, did the universe require further preparation or perfection after He already created it?

Word: (Strong #4487) *rhema* - a meaningful sound, an utterance, a narrative. Note also “*logos*” is not used in this verse which would seem to go along better with the idea of creation and the universe if that is what is under consideration.

Made: (Strong #1096) *ginomai* - to come to pass, to be, to arise or appear in history. It is the same word translated “took place” in Matt. 1:22-23 when referring to that spoken by God to Isaiah: “the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son”.

By adhering to these definitions the examples of faith that immediately follow in the narrative take on more meaning. It also takes the reader’s mind away

from the universe and fixes it more firmly on each individual. It sets the frame work where thinking about each individual and age they lived, the circumstances they were in, and the choices they needed to make naturally follow.

Abel is the first example mentioned. His offering by faith showed the importance of a substitutional sacrifice across all the ages of time; even until now.

Noah was moved with fear to construct an ark that saved him and his family. No one else except his family believed during the age he lived. His example looks ahead even to this present age and explains further the importance of baptism (1Pet. 3:20-21).

Abraham was 100 and “as good as dead.” Sara was 90 and barren. This is a hopeless situation for child-bearing unless God intervenes. We know God did intervene and Sarah received strength to conceive and give birth when spiritually and physically this initially did not seem possible. When continuing to follow the text and the context through the rest of the examples in this chapter they begin to take on additional meaning and application. Moses for example, his parents saw he was a beautiful child. Did they save him because he was extra cute? Or did they see his extraordinary features to mean something more because they believed God? Moses chose in ages past to follow God and not the riches of Egypt because he could see in future ages the greater reward of Christ. Was it really the stars that inspired him; or did he learn the will of God and make some difficult life changes?

By adhering to these definitions, especially “*aion*,” meaning “ages” and not the celestial realm, the examples of each individual mentioned intensifies. We can see real people, in the age they existed, making changes in their thoughts and actions without anything else to rely on except the word of God. This is true for us today because we believe Christ. We have never seen Him, but we know He is, and He is coming. This causes us to make sometimes very difficult changes in our lives based on something we have not seen.

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