

July 31, 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: Russ Canup

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

Group Meeting Day: Check the board in the foyer to see what group you are in and check with your deacon to see when your meeting has been scheduled. Meet back at the building at 5 PM for singing and scripture reading.

Bible Class @ 5 PM — Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)

High School Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home (no class tonight)

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: The book of Ruth

Room 12: Young Adults Class

NOTES & QUOTES

Things people have said, to ponder and critique.

Life...

THE TEMPTATION is always to reduce it to size. A bowl of cherries. A rat race. Amino acids. Even to call it a mystery smacks of reductionism. It is *the* mystery. As far as anybody seems to know, the vast majority of things in the universe do not have whatever life is. Sticks, stones, stars, space – they simply *are*. A few things *are* and are somehow alive to it. They have broken through into Something, or Something has broken through into them. Even a jellyfish, a butternut squash. They're in it with us. We're all in it together, or it in us. Life is *it*. Life is *with*. After lecturing learnedly on miracles, a great theologian was asked to give a specific example of one. "There is only one miracle," he answered. "It is life." Think about it:

- Have you wept at anything during the past year?
- Have you thought seriously about the fact that someday you are going to die?
- More often than not, do you really *listen* when people are speaking to you instead of just waiting for your turn to speak?
- Is there anybody you know in whose place, if one of you had to suffer great pain, you would volunteer yourself?

If your answer to all or most of these questions is no, the chances are that you're dead.

– Fred Buechner

Careless Words

Commenting on Paul and Silas' imprisonment in Philippi in Acts 16, and the ensuing "apology" of the magistrates, Mark White wrote:

Among the various lessons to be learned from this episode is this: ***we must be cautious when making charges of sin against others.***

Do we realize that a careless charge can ruin a person's influence for good? Are we aware of the damage loose cannons cause when recklessly discharged? Just because Paul and Silas were accused of wrongdoing did not make it true.

We have seen times when people sought to repent of private matters publicly. It was easier to walk down a church aisle and make a generic statement of sin than to look an offended one squarely in the face and say, "I was wrong to say what I said or to do what I did."

Then, we have also observed public indictments and accusations of sin without ever making any attempt to speak privately and directly to the accused. It was easier to mount a pulpit or write a Facebook post and rail against them, than to sit down face-to-face and come to an understanding which would have prevented public excommunication.

Both of these paths lead to wrong destinations. Effective apologies require the right persons saying the right things at the right place. Apologies are needed at times. Do not foolishly hinder what they could accomplish.

MARK W. WHITE,
CY-FAIR CHURCH IN CYPRESS, TEXAS



Is marketing guru Seth Godin on to something here?

Are you smart?

Smart is no longer memorization. It's not worth much. Smart is no longer access to information. Everyone has that.

Smart is:

- Situational awareness
- Clarity of goals
- Good taste
- Empathy for others
- The ability to make decisions that further your goals

The good news is that smart is a choice, and smart is a skill.

“...as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8, ESV)

The Big Lie

BY DAVID POSEY

Lying is easy. Listen to some activists and politicians for a few minutes and you'll be convinced. Lying is common. But the prevalence of a sin does not make it acceptable. Knowingly telling a lie is inexcusable — all lies are “big” lies. If you catch yourself doing it, you'd better confess it quickly. Jesus showed his contempt for lying in his words to some of the Jewish leaders:

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” — John 8:44

One who is given to lying is in bad company. Paul said:

“...understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, **liars**, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”

1 Timothy 1:9-11

Ananias and Sapphira lied and it led to sudden death. Peter said, “You have not lied to man but to God.” (Acts

5:4). Proverbs 19:5, says, “a false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.” Paul, in Romans 1:24-25, seems to place several categories of sin under the heading of “the lie”:

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a (lit., “the”) lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

To lie is to intentionally utter a false statement. The Greek word translated “lie” is *pseudos*. We use the English word “pseudo” to describe something that is not genuine, something that is spurious, a sham.

I majored in journalism in college and the golden rule of journalism was to tell the truth, regardless of how it affected yourself or others. A real journalist must be stubbornly objective, regardless of how he or she feels about the issue. In newspapers and news shows on TV, opinions were strictly reserved for the Opinion & Editorial (Op-Ed) pages.

Today, there is a whole generation of “journalists” who are *pseudo* journalists. They all have bylines, they all seem their opinions as “news.” Many of

them either lie outright or withhold the truth, both of which are dishonest.

In God's eyes, every lie is a “big lie” no matter who utters it or the nature or substance of the lie. And there are variations that sometimes make lying hard to identify. While hyperbole is an effective literary device (Jesus used in on occasion) exaggeration to make yourself look good or someone else look bad is just another form of lying. A failure to disclose information that, given the situation, should be disclosed, is a form of lying. Denying that you said something that you know you said is a lie. Minimizing something that is more serious than you are letting on can be a lie. Deliberating restating something that someone told you to hide important facts or gain an advantage is a form of lying. And, of course, deliberately breaking a promise is a lie.

Not all untruths that we utter are lies. We can honestly get our facts wrong or forget important details or

misinterpret something we heard that we repeat to others. But one thing for sure: the liar knows when he's lying — unless it has become compulsive and lying becomes so easy that he does it without thinking. That

would be a terrible place to find oneself at judgment.

Psalm 15 puts truth at the top of the list of the characteristics of the righteous:

O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the Lord;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

Note that he says “speaks truth *in his heart*.” The heart — the real you — is where your character is formed. People can fake it for awhile but eventually what's in their heart is disclosed by their actions (see cartoon above). So,

Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it *spring* the issues of life. — Proverbs 4:23

