

September 4, 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**

*Principles and Precepts*

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

*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*

**Mark Your Calendars: November 13-16, 2022**

**“How We Got the Bible”**

**Mike Wilson, Santa Clara church of Christ**

*See schedule of lessons on page 3*

# NEWS, NOTES & QUOTES

## It's Better in Person

A preacher, George Swinnock, said this in the 1600s — “Satan watches for those vessels that sail without a convoy.” Every individual knows he was created for community. Isolation is the Devil’s playground, and our enemy is on the lookout for the Christian who thinks he can stand alone in independent isolation from the fellowship, accountability, and encouragement of faithful brothers and sisters. — Burk Parsons

## Surrounded by Little “Messengers”

“Children are messengers to us from a world we once deeply knew.” — Alice Miller, author. We have lots of “little messengers” around us at every service — and I love the message! — *dp*

## What Has Changed?

In a world that views absolute truth, right and wrong, and salvation as being subject to individual interpretation, the Bible’s unwavering proclamations and miraculous stories seem obsolete in modern times. But it is not God’s Word that has changed. Indeed, its relevancy and its power to transform lives are intact. **What has changed is the number of people who consult it.** Now more than ever the need to read the Bible, to understand the big picture of its storyline, and to grasp the relevance this has for your life is critical. — D. A. Carson

## Mental and Physical Capacity

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) clearly teaches that people have different capacities and abilities. In the parable, a talent is a unit of currency, but Jesus gave to each man according to his ability or capacity to get a return on the investment (ROI). But a prominent politician said last week, “Everyone has the same capacity, but in order for them to have equal opportunity to reach that capacity, we must pay attention to this issue of equity.” The idea that “everyone has the same capacity” is demonstrably false. “Capacity” is defined as “the ability or power to do, experience, or understand something.” Though I loved baseball as a kid, I did not possess the same capacity as my namesake, Buster Posey. Everyone has equal *value*, but not equal capacity; that seems self-evident. As parents and elders and mentors, we try to identify the capacity/ability of a person and then do what we can to help them maximize that capacity. Perhaps the person who said “everyone has the same capacity” meant “everyone has *some* capacity” and that, of course, is true. — *dp*

## Ever met a happy atheist?

If atheists don’t believe in God because they don’t want to live under the fear of judgment, you would think atheists would be the happiest, most care-free people on the face of the earth. I have not found that to be the case. The atheists who post on social media or who I hear on news shows do not seem to be happy and carefree. Many of them, in fact, seem angry or depressed and never satisfied. I guess if your “god” is climate change or abortion rights or some yet unfulfilled dream or cause, then the concept of joy is rather elusive. You would think they might take time to see if there is an alternative worldview that would enrich their lives and give them purpose. Instead, these angry, depressed men and women dig in and get angrier or more depressed. It’s strange. — *dp*

## Peace, but Not at Any Price

“Controversy is an odious thing; but there are days when it is a positive duty. Peace is an excellent thing, but, like gold, it may be bought too dear. Unity is a mighty blessing; but it is worthless if it is purchased at the cost of truth. — J. C. Ryle

## “Boring” Sermons

I know I’ve preached my share of genuinely boring sermons. I’ve bored myself a few times — while I’m preaching! There are times when something sounds much better in your head than it does when it comes out of your mouth. But are boring sermons always the fault of the speaker? If “boring” means “not interesting” or overly obvious, it’s possible that Jesus preached a “boring” sermon now and then. Take the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-9) for example. Jesus told the story of a farmer who sows seed that falls on different types of ground and, therefore, has different results. *Umm...doesn't everyone know that?* Without application of that parable to spiritual things, the crowd is left guessing. Mark 4:10 implies that only the twelve followed Jesus and asked him to explain the parable. Meanwhile, the crowd was still standing on the seashore wondering why Jesus would tell such a “boring, obvious” story. We need to beware of what we find “boring.” At the end of the parable Jesus shifted the burden to the hearer when he says, “he who has ears to ear, let him hear.” Does that not apply to all us? — *dp*

# CULTURE

## *Cultural issues, trends, warnings*

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### **It's not candy!!!**

From the DEA: parents need to be aware that fentanyl is being “marketed” to look like candy. So-called “rainbow fentanyl” has been seized in 18 US states. Drug enforcement authorities believe that these pills are being purposely made to look like candy in order to entice young adults, calling it a “deliberate effort to drive addiction.” Certain colors or “flavors” may be marketed as more potent than others—but fentanyl in all of its forms can be deadly. More adults between 18 and 45 died of fentanyl overdoses in 2020 than COVID-19, motor vehicle accidents, cancer and suicide. It's crucial that parents keep the lines of discussion open with their children so that they know that there is no such thing as a “safe” dose of fentanyl and that taking any unknown substance, even colorful pills, could pose a threat to their life. [Source: *Cultural Translator* & the DEA].

### **“Back to School Necklace” (!!)**

The phrase “back to school necklace” is a euphemism for a particular way of ending one's own life. Students filled with anxiety around classwork, bullies, school violence, or a combination of all of these may find themselves wishing they could just bypass the whole back-to-school thing. Although some teens who use this phrase will only be doing so in jest, Doreen Marshall recommends looking at a teen's talk, behavior, and mood altogether to help determine whether they might be in need of serious emotional support. [Source: *Cultural Translator*]

### **“I'm Blessed”**

The mantra “I'm blessed — just look at my [material blessing]” — that we hear too often, even from fellow Christians who ought to know better, has reached its unbiblical, profane zenith in a song by DJ Khaled, featuring Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend & Friday. The song is entitled “God Did.” Reportedly (I have not listened to the song) the chorus in this 8 minute long song includes the line “They didn't believe in us—but I know God did” and *conflates material success with God's blessing and approval*. Fans are excited about Jay-Z's 4-minute long verse, in which he details his past life as a drug dealer, analyzes the current state of his career, and compares himself to God. The song has been given an explicit rating for profanity. (Texts to discuss: Luke 6:20; Ephesians 4:29-30 and many more). [Source: *Cultural Translator*].

### **“Quiet Quitting”**

People on TikTok and other social platforms are talking about “quiet quitting.” It's a term that refers to “emotionally” breaking up with your job without walking away from your place of employment. “Quiet quitters” go on working as they normally would without going above and beyond for their employer, not working overtime, and not taking on additional responsibilities beyond what their job would require. This attitude toward work represents a wider reframing of the role of work in our lives, as Gen Z strives to redefine work/life balance. [Source: *Cultural Translator*]. **This is not an option for any generation of Christian workers:** “*Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.*” See Colossians 3:23; Ecclesiastes 9:10. *dp*

## **“How We Got the Bible”**

**November 13-16, 2022**

God Spoke — Sunday AM class period

The Concept of a Book — Sunday AM sermon

Transmission of the Text Down Through the Ages — Sunday PM Sermon

The Bible in the Middle Ages — Monday PM

An “English” Bible — Tuesday PM

The End Result: “the World's Greatest Book” — Wednesday PM