

September 11, 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: Scott Gardner**

*The Good News of Repentance*

*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 4*

# “Check Your Ego at the Door”

Back in 1985, the producers of the charity song, “We Are the World,” hung a sign above the door of the entrance to the studio that said, “Check Your Ego at the Door.” The reason was simple: there were 37 big-name singers and actors involved in producing the song, written by Michael Jackson and Quincy Jones. When so many popular performers are together, the temptation is to try to set yourself apart. Arrogance and ego creeps in. After all, it’s difficult when you are used to getting personal praise to share that with 36 others. So, since this song was not about any one of them, they put the sign on the door.

If I was asked to ascribe the negative things going on in the world right now; or the problems we’ve seen in churches historically; or the

“Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.”

problems in many households, I’d put it all under the heading of arrogance and pride.

Oliver Wendell Holmes is reported to have told a young man, “the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God.” Parents need to keep reminding their kids of that but it’s a good reminder for all of us. There are few things more endearing than genuine humility and few things more annoying than arrogance.

It’s not that hard to spot. Why? Because it seems the arrogant person searches for ways to reveal his arrogance. It’s uncanny. It won’t be long until you catch on — by their own words you learn that he or she thinks they are the center of universe, God’s gift to the world.

As I said above, it’s annoying to us. But, to God, it’s an *abomination*. Proverbs 16:5 says, “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.” Malachi says something that is “so 2022”: “And now we call the arrogant ‘blessed.’” That’s true; we do. But the psalmist says, “Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure.” (Psalm 101:5b).

God has made his view on arrogance perfectly clear. I’m no psychologist but it makes sense that the source of arrogant behavior is insecurity... at least in some cases (some people really do believe they are God, apparently). Insecure people make up for it by bragging or, worse, putting other people down. It’s too bad they don’t have a strong enough sense of self-worth to avoid being arrogant but that’s not an excuse.

The solution to the problem is difficult because, almost by definition, a haughty person doesn’t think he needs any help. He lacks self-awareness. But we should each ask ourselves how often we talk about our accomplishments — or sneak them in sideways while taking about something completely unrelated.

Paul said, “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” (Romans 12:3). In the future, we’ll work on that latter half of that verse, but we all need to make sure we have the first half internalized before that.

Peter said, “Clothe yourself with humility...” for or “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” *1 Peter 5:5*.

## How to Write Good

### Some Simple Rules:

- Don't use no double negatives.
- Make each pronoun agree with their antecedents.
- Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
- About them sentence fragments.
- When dangling, watch your participles.
- Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
- Just between you and I, case is important too.
- Don't write run-on sentences they are hard to read.
- Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
- Try to not ever split infinitives.
- It's important to use apostrophe's correctly.
- Proofread your writing to see if you any words out.
- Corect speling is esential.

### Seriously...

I do a lot of writing but it’s patently obvious that I’m no expert. For example, I’ve all but given up on how to use “who” and “whom” correctly. My excuse is that I studied to be a sportswriter and sportswriters have more latitude in how they apply grammar rules. I don’t even know if that’s true, but that’s my story and I’m sticking to it. In any case, here are a few common mistakes that are easy to correct. If you want more detailed information talk to Rochelle Brown, Allison Horak or several others more proficient than me at this. – dp  
Meanwhile...

- Please capitalize “Bible” when applying it to God’s word (not when talking about the “fishing bible” or the “golf bible”).
- Most of the time, in the USA, quotes go *outside* the punctuation mark like this, “I am learning how to lasso my verbs,” not like this “...my verbs”.
- Nothing is ever “very” unique or “quite” unique or “nearly” unique. “Unique” means “the only one of its kind, unlike anything else.”
- Most of the time we can eliminate the word “very”; and be careful about using the word “literally.”
- Try to write in the active voice instead of the passive voice: “mistakes were made” (passive). Better: “the leaders made many mistakes.” Better yet: “the leaders [specify the mistakes they made].”
- In your writing, “be a meaningful specific not a wandering generality” (Zig Ziglar)
- Here’s a page to help correct common errors like using its and it’s and “their,” “there” and “they’re” and “effect” vs. “affect” correctly: <https://www.-grammar-monster.com/index.html>

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# DO NUMBERS MATTER?

I'm not certain about this, but it's possible that prior to the pandemic, the church at Folsom was the largest non-institutional church in California. Whether that's true or not, do you think God cares? I don't. Numbers do not matter to God; faithfulness matters and oftentimes, in many places, there are but a "faithful few." Some of those faithful few may be found in larger churches — what some have called, "the church within the church."

Of course, there are some advantages in a larger church: an overflow of talent — teachers, preachers, song leaders; great singing; financial resources that allow us to support the preaching of the gospel in other places in the world. A major part of the elders' work here is in managing and utilizing our "wealth" — money and talent.

But there are disadvantages, too. For example, it's not uncommon for visitors to attend several times before we meet them. That can be embarrassing. Also, I think all of those who preach here will tell you it's more difficult to preach for a large, age- and background- diverse audience. The particular needs vary so much it's almost impossible to hit on a topics or text that applies equally to everyone on any given Sunday. Our Bible classes have the greater potential for touching on particular needs than our preaching is able to do. (I'm not minimizing preaching. It's an occasion to "trumpet" major themes from God's word without interruption and let everyone know, in one sitting, that we stand with Christ and the gospel).

There are some advantages to being part of a smaller church. The two churches I preached for prior to coming to Folsom were small in number. We all knew each other and when someone was absent, we knew it and he or she was missed. We had Bible classes during the week that a half or more of the church would attend. And, at least among the most faithful,

the idea of the church as "family" was more realistic. Many families moved away in the last few months. We miss everyone of them, so don't take this wrong but it may make us a stronger in the long run.

When we read Paul's letters to the churches, or read Christ's interaction with churches in the book of Revelation, it's clear that God is not impressed with numbers, *per se*. In fact, numerical factors are never mentioned — except in the early part of Acts — and, depending on how you interpret Revelation 3:8, Philadelphia, one of the two churches Christ commends instead of criticizes, may have been a relatively small church.

Numbers don't matter. What matters is devotion to the Christ and the truth, without compromise. What matters is doing everything in our power to glorify God and honor Christ. 300 singing in a service is not inherently more spiritual or pleasing to God than 20 who are singing in a small building somewhere, even if none of those 20 could carry a tune in a bucket.

The only time we can say "numbers matter" is when we are encouraging each other to sow the seeds of the kingdom. We should be doing that profusely. The more seed we sow, the more likely we'll find that "good soil" (see Matthew 13:1-9). Even that parable seems to teach the principal that the kingdom of God, percentage-wise, is likely to be smaller rather than larger. Jesus said in Matthew 22:14, "For many are called, but few are chosen" and in Matthew 7:14, he said, "For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

As I heard Paul Earnhart say several times, "Jesus wasn't trying to get a crowd together." No, he wasn't; he was looking for true disciples — how many was beside the point.

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## "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