

November 6, 2022

# The View

*“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21*

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## 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: “Timothy & Titus”*

*Room 15/16: Relationships: Love (agape)*

**Room 12: Young Adult Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)**

**10:30 AM: Assembly**

**Preaching Today: David Posey**

Sermon: “To God Be the Glory”

*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: Letters to Timothy & Titus*

*Room 15/16: Relationships: Love*

**Room 12: Young Adults Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)**

**Starts Next Lord’s Day**

**November 13-16**

**How We Got Our Bible (Mike Wilson, Santa Clara)**

**See page 4 for the schedule**

# THOUGHTS & QUOTES

...to ponder and critique.

## Extreme Political Rhetoric

Beginning from the time I was old enough to understand what was going on, I have been through about 120 election cycles (counting presidential and mid-term elections) and I have to say that the current level of acrimonious rhetoric is something I have not seen in my lifetime. For example, a woman on a TV show said that a white middle class woman voting for candidates in a certain party is like "a roach voting for Raid." A historian said that if you vote a certain way "our children will be arrested and conceivably killed." And high profile politicians have claimed that if you don't vote the way they want you to vote, it will be the "end of democracy" which, of course, makes no sense (democracy demands that people are free to vote the way they want). That is just a tiny bit of what is going on.

We're witnessing hatred, mockery and name-calling with appalling frequency.

We don't have to suppose what Jesus think about this:

You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. *Matthew 5:21-22*

I have strong political views but I think about this every one I hear someone, even on "my side," make a rude, insulting comment. Political heat like we're seeing now is a cautionary tale. We must be careful, regardless of how our political opponents act, that our political views do not lead us into "hell of fire." — dp

## "Wokeness"

I don't preach partisan politics from the pulpit for the simple reason that I don't see Jesus or the inspired writers of the New Testament doing that. There was a lot of disturbing political things going on in the first century but the Holy Spirit doesn't speak about them specifically.

However, Jesus and the apostles did speak about the current culture or the "world." See John 2:15-17, for example, where John warns against loving the things in the world. We might say, today, "be careful about allowing the culture to influence your life."

One of the most bizarre developments we've seen in the last few years is the advent of what has become known as "wokeness." The Urban Dictionary defines "wokeness" as "an intolerant, quasi-religious ideology that uses performative compassion for alleged victim groups to achieve power, moral superiority and social status. It requires no personal sacrifice and often advocates for policies that harm marginalized people." Another definition is "self-righteousness masquerading as enlightenment." It may not have started that way but these definitions seem to be an accurate reflection of how the term is viewed today.

Here's one example of extreme "wokeism": A woman, speaking at Portland State University, was asked, "what are some differences between men and women?" She responded that men are, on average, taller than women. At that, several students stormed out of the room and called her a fascist.

Someone commented that "wokeism" is becoming a parody of itself. Another said that the problem with "wokeness," even if used by someone who has good intentions, is that you can't nag people into good behavior. It is hard to be "woke" without sounding arrogant or, at least, condescending.

I was reflecting on that from the standpoint of how we teach and preach. I'm not sure we can conceive of someone who considers himself "woke" speaking the truth in love as we are instructed to do in Ephesians 4:15.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. - 1 Jno. 2:15

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If we don't ignore 1 John 2:15 outright, we load it up with qualifications. We file down its edges with explanations. We dismiss it as applying only to those more "worldly" than us. We empty it of its authority, its meaning for our day-today lives.

WORLDLINESS: RESISTING THE SEDUCTION OF A FALLEN WORLD  
C. J. MAHANEY, JOHN PIPER, DAVE HARVEY, BOB KAUFMAN, JEFF PURSWELL, AND CRAIG CABANISS

# “M”

BY DAVID POSEY

Long before I started preaching full-time, a war was raging in churches all across America. It was especially intense in California. I'm not talking about the war between institutional and non-institutional churches or instrumental music v. non-instrumental music churches. The war I'm talking about took place in the 70s, in the first few years after Christie and I were married. It was the war over “MDR” — “*marriage, divorce and remarriage*.”

Looking back on it, there wasn't any debate about the “M.” The debate focused on the “D” & “R,” divorce and remarriage. The main debate wasn't even on the “D.” Preachers agreed that a husband or wife could divorce their spouse if they committed sexual immorality (Matthew 19:3-9). The key question was, “who was authorized to *remarry*?” Could a spouse put away for adultery remarry? If so, where does it say that in the New Testament? That was the question.

One Sunday, Christie and I, about five years into our marriage, sat in an assembly as a guest preacher taught his view of MDR. He drew a pair of handcuffs on the chalk board, representing the marriage bond (?). He then erased the chain on the cuffs that bound the parties and said something like, “if one spouse is not bound the other is not bound.” In other words, regardless of the reason for the divorce, both parties were free to remarry. There was no scripture cited to back that up and no Q & A afterwards, just one man's opinion.

Turns out some of the young men and women in the church at the time were struggling in their marriage. Yet, there were no sermons on marriage or any classes being taught on it. In the 7 ½ years we spent as members of that church, the MDR sermon is the only one we remember on the topic of marriage. Meanwhile, debates on MDR continued and were highly publicized. We heard more about how to get out of a marriage than how to stay married.

It is no surprise that when the dust settled, several troubled marriages ended in divorce. There was a case where a young man divorced his wife, and married another, and still attended a church of Christ and used in various aspects of the services. Another young man, who was seeking to get out of his marriage, went to him and asked “*how did you do that?*” He then left his wife and ended up back in the church.

Matthew 19:3-9 was the main text men were debating. A fair reading of the text reveals that there is only one reason to divorce a spouse and that is for fornication. There is no provision for the guilty party to remarry; that conclusion can only be reached by assuming something Jesus didn't say.

These MDR discussions and articles were not particularly “friendly.” It was a blood sport. The arguments were often vitriolic and insults flew from one camp toward the other. In my opinion, there were many men who considered themselves “woke” on MDR, much like some consider themselves “woke” on certain topics today (see “Wokeness” on page 2).

Meanwhile, recently married couples like Christie and I were not hearing anything about how to make a marriage work. No Ephesians 5:22-33. No mention of Malachi 2:13-16, a striking indictment against those who commit violence by divorcing their wives.

You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

The emphasis on MDR continued. A son of a preacher who often debated MDR was visiting another church for a few months during the summer. At the end of summer, as he was returning back to school, he complained to his dad that in that three months he didn't hear even one sermon on MDR. That preacher-dad publicly branded that church as “not sound on the marriage issue” — the only evidence was that they had not preached on MDR in 3 months.

That was a toxic period in our life in the church. Many years later, when I decided to preach full time, I vowed to myself and to God that I would preach and teach on marriage — the “M” — and less on the D & R. I've been criticized for that but I don't care.

I have no way of knowing for sure, but if there had been some sermons and classes on marriage, perhaps it would have prevented some of the marital train wrecks that were happening all around us. We left that church and began another church in the town we lived in. We had great examples in our parents and another couple who had a great marriage, who attended with us in the new church.

So, you haven't heard many sermons from me on MDR, but a lot on the M. Again, it's not that MDR isn't important; we've had classes on it in the past. My point: it's a matter of *emphasis*. Preach and teach enthusiastically about marriage and how we can have great marriages as God intended and then we'll have to talk about divorce much less frequently.

Meanwhile, look around the auditorium here and you will see a large majority of families with strong marriages. I have said many times that it seems a church is only as strong as its families and a strong family begins with strong marriages.

So, while we will teach the truth on the “D & R,” we will continue to *emphasize* the “M.”

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# News

## Prayers

Hank Wilson is in the hospital with shortness of breath and swelling in his legs. The doctors are doing tests to determine the issue. Pray for him.

Bev Vasquez (knee surgery delayed); Roberta Canup, Marilyn Mowrer, Diane Canup, Jack Harrison's father, Michael Harrison, and Naomi Fannin, Randy Setliff, Etta Bicknell, Wally Colvin, Allison Horak's parents, Greg Herrin, Val Gardner, Vicki Stevens (Tim Stevens' wife), Jared Servey (Debbie Reagan's 30 year old nephew), Tim Fugazi, Linda Trokey, Roberta Canup, Kristin McCollum, Charlotte York, Rich Ladd, Bill Miller (Deenise Kosct's brother). Also . . .

- . . . Christians in Russia and Ukraine . . . and for peace in that region.
- . . . those who serve in the military, for first responders and healthcare workers.
- . . . all who are preaching the gospel, especially those whom we support financially.
- . . . for those all who are suffering physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually.
- . . . for our single moms, widows, widowers and others in difficult circumstances.

## Information

### Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password-protected member's section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

### Classes & Home Studies

We have classes for children from 18 months and up on Wednesday night at 7 PM. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### For Small Children

There is a room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at [dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com) or text at 530-558-5057

## Begins Next Lord's Day! "How We Got the Bible"

November 13-16, 2022

God Spoke — Sunday 9:30 AM

The Concept of a Book — Sunday 10:30 AM

Transmission of the Text Down Through the Ages — Sunday 5 PM

The Bible in the Middle Ages — Monday 7 PM

An "English" Bible — Tuesday 7 PM

The End Result: "The World's Greatest Book" — Wednesday 7 PM

## The Folsom View

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