

November 27, 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: “Timothy & Titus”*

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

**Room 12: Young Adult Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15)**

**10:30 AM: Assembly**

**Preaching Today: David Posey**

Sermon: “Farther Along”

*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 David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com)))

or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

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” (1 Peter 3:15)**

# WHEN LOOKING FOR A CHURCH

BY MARK W. WHITE

When people drive by our building they may have some idea of who we are, but it would take a visit for them to really learn about us. In fact, they may need to visit for several weeks to carefully examine who we are and what we believe. Some who drive by our building these days are “looking for a church home.” We often receive a visitor’s card marked “I’m looking for a church home.” Some of them, however, even after our visits, calls and letters, end up somewhere else. As the retailers say, they “looked” but they did not “buy.”

The media are saying “religion” is on the rise. Many are looking for answers to the tough questions of life, and they know God has answers for those tough questions. “Baby-boomers” are looking. “Millennials” are searching. “Gen-X and Gen-Z” are testing the waters. Disgruntled members of big denominations, unhappy with their politics, bureaucracy and compromises, are looking. Parents with young children are looking. Shopping around. Many are looking, but what do they expect to find? What are they looking for that they do not find here?

**“You are not friendly enough.”** If you have ever been on the road and stopped for worship in an unfamiliar area, you may know what it means to be ignored. Are we unfriendly? Do we take time from our visiting with each other to greet and speak kindly to our visitors? Frankly, I have never known a more friendly and warm group of Christians than those who meet here. But it won’t hurt for us to keep on working on our “friendly.” It can always be better.

**“Your doctrinal stance is too strict.”** Yes, some churches do teach doctrines that God did not authorize. Then there are others who teach that there are New Testament doctrines that we don’t really have to obey. If we ever do either of those things here at Cy-Fair we will need to correct it. But no one has given us any reason to believe that we do not teach and preach the Bible here. In fact, every class has an open Bible for its foundation! Maybe some are really looking for “feel good” preaching, not Bible preaching. The gospel is truly good news. It calls man to a life in which God’s love and grace give us the means by which we can have the hope of heaven. But the gospel also makes some demands on man that many do not want to obey. We will always be wise to “examine” ourselves and what we teach to make sure we preach God’s truth (1 Timothy 4:16). But we also must remember that some do not want truth, that some have “itching ears,” seeking to satisfy themselves, not God (2 Timothy 4:3). We must not try to force God’s Will into a mold of our making, but to mold our will into God’s Will. He is the potter. We must be the clay.

**“There are too many old people there.”** Now that’s hitting a bit closer to home these days, but there’s nothing wrong with being “old,” however you define it. True, in some places the pews are filled with mostly gray-haired folks, but not here at Cy-Fair. We have many young families who vital-

ize and motivate us to greater service. Young, old or in between, every soul is equally valuable in God’s sight.

**“The worship and the sermons are boring.”** I know what “boring” means. Some preachers are more talented than others, and some sermons less “exciting” than others. But how can singing about the love of God be boring? What about hearing Scriptures which tell us of eternal life? And what are we supposed to do to keep sermons from being “boring”? More humor or entertainment? A side-splitting joke now and then? Okay, but some may prefer a lot less Bible and a lot more entertainment. Maybe some prefer a little more

“...some may prefer a lot less Bible and a lot more entertainment. Maybe some prefer a little more ‘Mayberry’ or ‘Peanuts,’ and a little less Ephesians and Luke.”

“Mayberry” or “Peanuts,” and a little less Ephesians and Luke. When does that levity and laxity become irreverent—even if it increases interest in what is being taught? David’s attitude toward worship was, “*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day,*” (Psalm 119:97). That attitude keeps boredom with spiritual things at arms length, to be sure. That seems to be the answer to this problem.

**For Others:** The air-conditioning (or heating) was not set to their liking. Or, the cushioned pews were too hard and uncomfortable. Maybe this one: “I saw hypocrites there!” Even, “the services last too long.”

Is it possible that some are just “shopping around” for a church that suits them, and are not concerned about what is pleasing to Christ? Could it be that our best efforts will never be enough for some, and especially so if we keep trying to be the church described in the Bible as the “bride” of Christ? Whom should we seek to please — man, or God?

If we fall short in our greetings or welcome, let’s make that right. If our services need improvement, then make the corrections needed, no matter how painful they may be. If our interest in guests is not what it ought to be, let’s get our attitudes right. We must be willing to show genuine interest in our visitors, for how we deal with them may be the deciding factor in where they dwell eternally.

If you are looking for a “church home,” we are willing to take the Bible and study it with you, making sure that our views are in harmony with the Bible. We want to help you and others, but we will never compromise God’s message for any reason and certainly not to increase our attendance. We want everyone who loves God and His Word to join with us. We want to be of help to everyone genuinely interested in improving their spiritual lives.

—Via Cy-Fair Family News & Notes

# A Parent's Greatest Fear

BY DAVID EDWIN HARRELL, JR.

The SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE FREQUENTLY STRIKING, REACHING FAR BEYOND PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCES. I sometimes detect my gestures and demeanor in my children, and I can see Deedee's as well. I think it is impossible to say whether such things are genetic or environmental, inherited or learned.

We know that physical traits are in the genes—*“which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?”* (Matthew 6:27). Noble noses are given, not chosen. More mysterious are those habits and manners that pass from generation to generation. My signature is virtually a carbon copy of my father's—a fact I did not stumble on until I was middle-aged.

I began thinking about this matter because of a sentence in a book I recently reviewed. In a survey of evangelicalism, Randall Balmer, a Columbia University historian, wrote: “I'm not sure there is any way I could document this, but I suspect that the greatest fear that haunts evangelical parents is that their children will not follow in their footsteps, that they will not sustain the

“Having made hundreds of wrong choices in our own lives, and having discovered a haven of rest in Christ, we yearn for our youngsters to avoid the tragedies that lurk at every turn in life.”

same level of piety as their parents—stated baldly, that they are headed for hell rather than heaven.”

I am not sure that there is any way I could document it, but I believe that is the most haunting uneasiness that I detect among Christian parents. The most dreadful thought we entertain in this world is that our children will not be like us.

The source of this concern, I think, is not mainly vanity. Of course, I am proud when my children do well, and I am saddened when they fail. Everyone likes it when some-one tells him that one of his children is “just like you.”

Our apprehension has more to do with compassion. It is natural for parents to love children, to want to protect them from troubles (2 Corinthians 12:14). Having made hundreds of wrong choices in our own lives, and having discovered a haven of rest in Christ, we yearn for our youngsters to avoid the tragedies that lurk at every turn in life. It saps our spirits to see them suffer; it blesses our lives to see them prosper. *“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother”* (Proverbs 10:1).

But Balmer correctly surmises that the chief fear of the Christian parent, “baldly stated,” is that the child will lose his or her soul. Our concern is a proclamation of faith, of our firm persuasion that there is more to come. In the end, all else is trivial. Sleepless nights, disappointed hopes, financial struggles—all anxieties become irrelevant as we look toward eternity. It is in heaven that we want to see our children safe and sound at last.

At this point in reflecting, we should think briefly on the sublimity of the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). To have a wayward child is tragic, to see your child suffering is distressing, but all such travail fades in-to insignificance when the prodigal comes home. The only real parental fear is eternal separation.

—Via Cy-Fair Family News & Notes



Honest question: do we ever need to put an adjective before the word “justice”? In English the word simply means “the quality of being fair and reasonable.” But it also refers to the administration of the law. Ideally, the law is administered reasonably and fairly. Where that has not been the case in the past, for example in certain parts of the country where slavery was common, then the term “racial justice” might be appropriate. Ideally, of course, society should administer justice fairly and reasonably regardless of one's race, nationality or social status. That's why lady justice is blindfolded and holding scales that are, presumably, perfectly calibrated regardless of who or what is weighed in the balances.

## Remember that God made man equal.

The film *Amazing Grace* chronicles the efforts of William Wilberforce (played by Welsh actor Ioan Gruffudd) to end the British Transatlantic slave trade in the 19th century. In this scene, Wilberforce attempts to awaken the consciousness of the public to the horrible practice of the slave trade by arranging for a ship carrying members of Parliament and their wives to stop alongside a slave ship.

As Wilberforce appears, one man asks, “What's he doing up there?”

“Ladies and gentlemen,” Wilberforce greets them, “this is a slave ship—the *Madagascar*. It has just returned from the Indies, where it delivered 200 men, women, and children to Jamaica. When it left Africa, there were 600 on board. The rest died of disease and despair.”

By now, some people are raising handkerchiefs to their noses to block the stench.

Wilberforce continues, “That smell is the smell of death—slow painful death.” A few people begin to cry. “Breathe it in; breathe it deeply. Take those handkerchiefs away from your noses. There now, remember that smell. Remember the *Madagascar*. Remember that God made man equal.”

## Justice will come

Amos prophesied to an evil nation who had, among other things, forsaken justice. He tells them they “turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!” (Amos 5:7). But justice – God's righteous judgment – will not be stifled. His favorite declaration goes like this:

*“let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an mighty stream.”*

Amos 5:24