

December 4, 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: Scott Gardner**

Sermon: “A Sinner Who Sees Jesus” (Luke 7:36-50)

*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” (I Peter 3:15)**

# NEW CALVINISM: GOD + THE WORLD?

BY DAVID POSEY

Calvinism is an old doctrine that features original sin (even a baby is a sinner), unconditional election (you have no choice in whether you are saved or not; God has already picked his “team”) and the impossibility of apostasy (if you’re one of the “elect,” you can never fall away). They believe this because of a view of the absolute sovereignty of God which, they say, means God predetermines absolutely everything that happens in the world. R. C. Sproul, in one of the most candid statements about Calvinism from a Calvinist, said that “every molecule in the universe is directly controlled by God.” This doctrine effectively eliminates free will. It’s a common doctrine but it is twisted and illogical. However, Calvinists have, traditionally, been strong on teaching morality and holiness.

In the last several years something called *New Calvinism* has come along. It features strong teaching on the sovereignty of God and grace — or at least their *definition* of grace — while, directly or indirectly, encouraging more communion with the world. In other words, they are strong on predestination but weak on reverence and holiness. This doesn’t surprise me. If you’re already one of the “elect” who cannot possibly fall away, why not “do your own thing”?

As example, several years ago, a popular young “pastor,” Perry Noble, played ACDC’s “Highway to Hell” as a prelude to a sermon on “Easter” Sunday at the Spring Hill church where he preaches.

Yes, that’s an extreme example of new Calvinism in action, but it illustrates where it can lead. Others aren’t quite willing to go that far, but they have nothing to say about many of the moral issues facing us today. They welcome those who are divorced and remarried, without question; they have nothing to say against alcohol, R- and worse- rated movies and Netflix series, like “Game of Thrones,” or other salacious entertainment or profanity. I’ve heard some of these young t-shirt, skinny-jean clad preachers curse on in interviews and even in sermons.

This trivializing of holiness attitude has seeped into the minds of some of our fellow

Christians. There are some who make fun of rules and the idea of obedience, casting it all under the heading of “works” that, they are quick to point out, cannot justify us.

While it’s true that we cannot earn our salvation by works of the law, the Bible does not teach that works are to be ignored; far from it. When the Bible discusses works in the context of salvation, it is talking about a system of righteousness; and the only way someone can be saved by works is to perform all works perfectly, something only Christ has done.

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20).

Paul is not denying himself and teaching that “works” have nothing to do with salvation (see Eph. 2:8-10 and the plethora of passages on “obedience. See the book of James).

He is saying that works of law cannot save us because law only defines what we are to do and not do. We would have to do everything in the law without fail, and do it continuously, to be saved by it (Gal. 3:10). Of course, the reality is that we don’t; we “all sin and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Our works are evidence of holiness and obedience and to minimize those is the work of Satan. One blogger put it well, in response to Mr. Noble’s Highway to Hell sermon overture:

Hell is big these days in the fraudulent churches. In fact, Hell’s own ringmaster is writing the material for today’s fake churches. Really friends, is it that hard to spot? Satan always marks his stuff, and he has no need for subtlety these days.

I’m not above begging our young people, especially, to be aware of this movement and it’s noble-sounding, but soul-destroying doctrine. Yes, God is BIG and full of grace; but He is also a God who expects and demands holiness from those who claim to be His children. “Without holiness, no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). ♦

# CULTURE

Cultural issues, trends, warnings

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## The Desire for Control

According to an article, some Gen-Z'er's find the thumb's up emoji "hurtful" and demand that people quit using it. This is just one more bit of evidence of a huge problems in society — the lust to control others. This isn't new, but there must be more "control freaks" per square mile than any time in our history. It's especially evident when people play the "it's hurtful" card. Yes, words can hurt people; there is no doubt about that. But when we begin to decide that certain words of our choosing are "hurtful" then it smacks of an effort to exert control. Words are not hurtful just because we say they are. But what's worse is the desire to control what others do and say, to make them bow to one's every whim and whimper. That's just arrogance and arrogance is sin (Romans 1:30, etc.).

— dp

From Cultural Translation Newsletter

## Is Meta's once ubiquitous photo-sharing app (Instagram) on its last legs?

Why teens are still signing on: Younger people might feel like they have to be on Instagram, but that doesn't mean it's where they want to be. When it comes to creating and sharing content, TikTok and Snapchat are the preferred social media channels for younger people. Instagram has 2 billion monthly active users, but many of these accounts are simply used to scroll through announcements and keep tabs on users' favorite famous people. Plenty of people still engage with Instagram and find it to be a must-have app, teens included. But unless something shifts, it seems like the aging monolith's destiny may be to act as little more than an archive of millennials' breakfasts and kids. [Opinion: social media may be a Christian's modern kryptonite, and the devil's most subtle tool. I know how easy it is to get sucked in and, the next thing you know, you've burned two or three hours of precious time. — dp].

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." *Ephesians 5:15-17*

"...social media may be a Christian's modern kryptonite, and the devil's most subtle tool. I know how easy it is to get sucked in and, the next thing you know, you've burned two or three hours of precious time."

## Isolation is a bigger issue

Americans spent 38 percent less time with friends and family members this Thanksgiving than they did in years past, a stark example that the amount of hours we spend with other people has plummeted. The so-called "loneliness epidemic" is actually not so new. As the Washington Post points out, time spent alone was already on an upward trend prior to 2020, going back to when smartphones first became commonplace. The average American now spends

less than 10 hours per week in person with friends, even when the definition of a "friend" is expanded to include clients, co-workers, and neighbors. This remains just as true for teens (15 and older) as it does for older groups.

Being alone isn't always bad, and can be a part of intentional spiritual formation. But when spending all of our free time alone becomes the status quo, it's worth wondering how normalized isolation is really serving us individually and as a society.

## Film/TV/Streaming

- The latest streaming sensation aimed at teens is Netflix's *Wednesday*. The streaming giant claims that the series has been viewed in 50 million households, with the series shattering a record for first week viewing previously held by *Stranger Things* Season 4. The show stars Jenna Ortega as Wednesday Addams, in a spin on the *Addams Family* canon. Parents should know that the show contains creepy elements, blood and gore, and some disturbing images.
- Willow is now an original fantasy series airing on Disney+. Based on the 1988 film of the same name, the series bills itself as a drama for the whole family. We haven't tuned in ourselves yet, but it appears that the show contains dark imagery as well as a same-sex romance. Parents have commented that the series isn't appropriate for younger viewers who may feel disturbed by frightening scenes. New episodes of the spinoff will air weekly on Wednesdays.