

December 25, 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: “Agape in Work Clothes”*

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

**10:30 AM: Assembly**

**Preaching Today**

**Scott Gardner**

*“Do All Things Without Grumbling”*

*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: no class tonight*

**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)**

# “NO ROOM AT THE INN”

DAVID POSEY

Today is you-know-what. Every few years, it falls on a Sunday and this is one of those years. It's called "Christmas" which literally means "Christ Mass" and refers to an annual festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus. We don't know the actual birthday of Jesus and there is nothing in the Bible that suggests that we are to make December 25<sup>th</sup> a "holy day"; the first day of the week is always holy because it is the Lord's day and there are 52 of those in every year.

Having said that, it's a nice time of year. What's not to like? Gifts, music, family time, decorations. I have fond memories of really good times with family and friends. And I'm not inclined to criticize anyone for thinking about Jesus regardless of the time or context.

So, let's think about the birth of Jesus for a bit. There's a fact stated in Luke 2:7 that intrigues me: "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

This statement may simply be a benign recording of a fact but I feel it's always good to ask why the writer is telling us something. Why does Luke (inspired by the Holy Spirit) tell us that this most famous of all babies ever born has a feeding trough for a crib because there was not room at the inn? Is this a clue that defines an aspect of Jesus' life? Jesus did say, later, "the birds have their nests and foxes have their holes, but the Son of Man has no place where He can lay His head..." (Matthew 8:20).

Jesus was homeless, at least some of the time. There was certainly nothing about his socioeconomic status that is notable. Yet, this Jesus — the "luminous Nazarene" as Albert Einstein called him — is a name known everywhere; he has found his way into the literature, the history, the consciousness of people all over the globe, whether they believe he was the Son of God or not. Today, millions celebrate his birth — not just for one day, but for a whole season, complete with songs, books, movies and plays.

But that begs the question — and it's the most important question we'll ever be asked: *There was no room at the inn for Jesus... Is there room for him in the "inn" of your heart?* People love to celebrate Christmas, but how many truly love the Christ? People love to sing about His coming here, but few love His *dwelling* here (John

1:14). Some love him as an infant, but recoil at his body on the cross as an adult. They love him as a lad, but won't treat him as their Lord (Luke 6:46). Jesus said in Matthew 15:8-9,

"This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines  
the commandments of men."

This might sound harsh, but it's demonstrably true: Christmas is the annual tradition of man that builds a

monument to the wish that Jesus had stayed in the manger. Why? Because Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). There was little room for Jesus in the hearts of most of the people he taught. At one point, John tells us that "many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him" (John 6:66). His teaching challenged the status quo; it was too intense, too challenging, too demanding. So how did this sweet, harmless baby — celebrated by so many in the world today — end up hanging on a cross? What happened? It's pretty simple:

**He grew up.**

No one is offended by a baby. Babies don't hold you accountable; they don't hold your feet to the fire; they won't call out your hypocrisy. Babies are dependent, needy, vulnerable. Jesus was a baby. *But he grew up!* And he didn't grow up to become a boring adult. The adult Jesus was different:

- He told people they were sinners.
- He told people they needed to change.
- He accused some of being hypocrites (Matthew 23).
- He told others they were sons of the devil (John 8:43-45)

One day he spoke in the synagogue in Nazareth. The people loved hearing him speak until they didn't. They were "filled with wrath" and chased him out of town (see Luke 4:22, 28-29). But that didn't stop Jesus from telling the truth. The old time preacher Billy Sunday used to say, "They tell me I rub the fur the wrong way. I say let the cat turn around!" Jesus, with full authority, said, "Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

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“Repent”? The Jews were God’s people. It was hard for them to accept that they needed to repent of anything. And who was this Jesus, anyway? They had seen him as a Jewish boy working in his father’s carpenter shop (Matthew 13:55-57; Luke 4:22). They were offended because Jesus was getting too big for his britches in their minds. He had the nerve to draw a line in the sand. Later, Jesus was crucified. Now, there is no neutral ground. Jesus on the cross and raised from the dead forces every human being in the world to make a decision about him.

“Christ in the manger is no threat. Jesus as a baby doesn’t challenge the conscience or question motives or condemn hypocrisy. So people love to keep him in the manger because Christ on the cross does all of that.”

Jesus himself said something that most people would rather ignore: he said,

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

*Matthew 7:13-14*

What would Jesus say to one of these celebrities who sing “O Holy Night” in December but live a godless life from January to November?

Jesus saved no one from the manger; the manger was an vehicle to get him to the cross. The cross is where our sins were dealt with once-and-for-all. But, as someone said, “People love the drool of the newborn Jesus but despise the blood of Jesus on the cross dying for their sins.”

Christ in the manger is no threat. Jesus as a baby doesn’t challenge the conscience or question motives or condemn hypocrisy. So people love to keep him at arm’s length, in the manger, because Christ on the cross does all of those things.

Our conscience is not offended by looking at a nativity scene but no one can look seriously at the cross and not be stricken with guilt and the knowledge that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and “all” includes me.

So, we return to the question: *Do you have room in the inn of your heart for Jesus?* We are not the blood-thirsty mob screaming “crucify, crucify!!” No...but...

- When Jesus demands all of your time.
- When Jesus demands all your goods?
- When Jesus demands all your attention?

...do you invite him in?

*...or do you hang out a sign that says NO VACANCY?*

[Adapted from a sermon preached in December, 2005]

Beginning Next Sunday

## “LOVE YOUR BIBLE” CLASS

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

*II Timothy 3:16-17*

Next Sunday, January 1, 2023, we will begin a two-quarter class in the auditorium that we’ve entitled, “Love Your Bible.” The objective of the class is, primarily, to help us develop a greater love and appreciation for God’s word. David Posey and Scott Gardner are facilitating the class, but we intend to invite several other men to teach along the way. Here is an agenda for the class although we will make adjustments as we go (the dates are tentative):

### **January 1 and 4: Introduction**

Introduction: Why we should not only *read* the Bible, but *love* it.

Challenge: read the entire Bible in the next six months.

Timeline Study: Where the 66 books fit in biblical history.

Discussion: *what the Bible means to us and how it has changed us.*

### **January 8 – February 1: Apologetics Review**

Review Inspiration to Ink (Mike Wilson’s book and sermons).

10 points that speak to the validity of the Bible.

The reliability of the Bible (bibliographic, internal, external tests).

Revelation, Inspiration and Inerrancy.

### **February 5 and 8: Versions and Types**

The Bible since the KJV – English Versions.

Types of literature: narrative, poetry, prophecy, letters, etc.

### **February 12 – March 1: Authority**

“Authority” defined. The Bible is Authoritative.

Old Testament or New Testament?

How to determine what is authorized.

- Generic and specific authority.
- Incidentals. Expediency.
- When are examples binding?
- The silence of scripture.

### **March 5 to June 25: Bible Study & Application**

Sundays: Bible skills (Hermeneutics)

Wednesdays: Apply Bible skills.

- In-class: digging into a variety of Bible texts

Wrap up class on Sunday, June 25th.

Singsings: Wednesday, March 29th & June 28th.