

October 23, 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: John Weaver (see News, page 4)

Sermon: “Great Faith” (Luke 7:1-10)

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” (1 Peter 3:15)

November 13-16

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

See page 4 for the schedule

NOTES & QUOTES

Things people have said, to ponder and critique.

"God is the audience."

Something to remember every time we assemble.

Ever felt this... and then said this?

Someone said, "I have to extend grace to someone who hurt me terribly last night. Their words felt like a knife in the chest. I'm still thinking about it today and still having a hard time letting it go. Thank you God for convicting my heart so I can forgive and move on." (See Matthew 6:14-15).

How can I say "God did this" unless I know He "did this"?

"How can I know God did something in my life unless it is revealed?" See I Peter 4:11; Romans 10:17. How would you answer this?

Quote

"There is no excess of goodness. You cannot go too far in the right direction." – CS Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress*

Social Media: Instagram

... is the worst social media network for mental health and wellbeing, according to a recent survey of almost 1,500 teens and young adults. While the photo-based platform got points for self-expression and self-identity, it was also associated with high levels of anxiety, depression, bullying and FOMO, or the "fear of missing out."

Social Media: TikTok

"Naked people everywhere, people saying explicit things! Sex is a regular topic! ... also destroys friendships and relationships with parents as kids begin to dress sexually and eventually drift away from parents completely. Please I beg you don't let children get this app, it will ruin them, like it ruined me." (From a 17 year old).

Seriously?

Statement from a nurse at Boston Children's Hospital:

"A good portion of children do know as early as from the womb that they are transgender."

In the next breath, they will tell you that a child in a womb is not even a person yet. Notice that these activist causes often cancel each other out. That's not what makes this wrong, but it's something to keep in mind.

A man of God is marked by:

- What he flees from
- What he follows after
- What he fights for
- What he is faithful to

Our Master is There

In one of his books, A.M. Hunter, the New Testament scholar, relates the story of a dying man who asked his Christian doctor to tell him something about the place to which he was going. As the doctor fumbled for a reply, he heard a scratching at the door, and he had his answer.

"Do you hear that?" he asked his patient. "It's my dog. I left him downstairs, but he has grown impatient, and has come up and hears my voice. He has no notion what is inside this door, but he knows that I am here. Isn't it the same with you? You don't know what lies beyond the Door, but you know that your Master is there."

EGO

"Edging God Out" (I heard that somewhere)

What we Learned from Psalm 23

COMMENTS FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 5 PM CLASS

"Sheep are not dumb. We have everything we need. We have a sense of security with Jesus."

"We have everything we need in the Lord. We can feel safe and find rest in him."

"There is no reason to have fear with God is your shepherd."

"Sheep aren't dumb. God provides abundantly."

"I learned that sheep can't live without a shepherd much like we can't live without God."

"We should be like the sheep not like the wolves."

"I learned about how sheep could remember their shepherd's voice and how, in John 10, it connects with what Jesus said. I didn't know sheep could do that and it's cool that the Bible had something in it similar to this."

"Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, the Lord will care for his people, providing them with protection, guidance and their needs."

"God will guide us and he will restore us from the trials we'll face."

"The Lord will protect you so there is no need to fear especially since the Lord has put in place an end goal for us to strive towards."

"Jesus will guide me through the darkness."

"I learned there's a lot deeper connection between shepherds and Jesus in this chapter than I thought."

"Let God be your Shepherd; rely on him."

"God is our shepherd. He keeps us on the path and says that the Good Shepherd would lay down his life for the sheep. Through Jesus laying down his life for us he has allowed us to stay on the right path through forgiveness of sins. Jesus is the good shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for the sheep."

"God fulfills all of our needs. We don't need anything else because we can depend on God. He helps guide us toward heaven and helps us on the way there."

"We need to be dependent on God for his leadership."

"I learned the new analogy that church are the sheep and God is the shepherd."

"We are sheep to God who is our Shepherd, meaning we rely on him in times of fear."

"We need to be like sheep and submit our will to God. Following him has value because it is our free will to choose him to trust and depend on."

"God will be our good shepherd if we let him. He cares about each and every one of us. He won't disappoint us and leave us unprotected. Jesus will guide us down the narrow path, supplying us with our spiritual and physical needs."

NOSTALGIA

BY DAVID POSEY

Christie and I were walking around a huge antique store in Santa Rosa a few years ago. It had a good supply of sports memorabilia and I enjoyed looking at the old baseballs and primitive football helmets. But most of my time was spent looking at some old black and white photographic prints (remember those? They were on paper, *real* paper). The pictures were of regular people, nothing special — no celebrities or sports figures; not Ansel Adams landscapes... just ordinary people, people I didn't know (not like the one below of my grandparents and their kids, including my father in his overalls).

Several times I asked myself, "Why am I looking at these... they have no special meaning to me." Yet, I couldn't stop. Something intrigued me about them. I'm still not sure. Ecclesiastes 7:10 says, "Say not, 'Why were the former days better than these?' For it is not from wisdom that you ask this." I've never been one to glorify the "good ol' days"; I lived in the "good ol' days" and they were not all that great.

I suspect my intrigue had more to do with one of my favorite pastimes when, as a child, I visited my maternal grandparents who lived in Patterson. My grandmother kept her photos in a tin box and the first thing I did when I arrived was ask if I could look at the pictures. She would take the box down from the shelf and I would spend an hour or more looking at each one, even though I had seen them several times before.



There were some that creeped me out yet I always made a point to look at them anyway. There was the one with my grandmother's uncle in a casket. The man was dead, right there in the picture! My mom told me they used to take pictures of loved ones in their caskets. Cool.

Then there were the photos of men in uniform like my dad and uncles who served in WWII. My uncle Bud and uncle Frank were MP's. Frank was a motorcycle MP in Italy during the war; there was a photo of him and his bike.

The most interesting picture was a photo of a little New Testament, just small enough to fit in a breast pocket of a uniform. It had a brass plate as a cover and there was a deep dent in the cover — a bullet hole, I was told. Of course, there's a story behind every picture and the story was that the little pocket New Testament saved the life of

the young man. I don't know if the story is true, but I was impressed with the figure — the power of the Bible to protect and save.

So, looking at the photos of people I didn't know in the antique store reminded me of all those photos in my

"We look back on a moment in history when a young man, God in the flesh, suffered unimaginable pain on a cross and 'by His wounds we are healed' (I Peter 2:24). The old wound that causes the pain — Christ's death — is the same wound that provides the healing of our wound. Amazing. Grace. Amazing Grace."

grandma's tin box. Some were very sad and some were just pictures of people who my grandparents held dear — like me and my brother and all my cousins and my aunts and uncles and, of course, my parents.

I guess it was nostalgia that kept my eyes riveted to the black and white photos in the store. Nostalgia is an interesting word. In the Greek it means "pain from an old wound." In German, *heimweh* means "acute homesickness" It takes us back to another time — to memories, good and bad.

I never watched the popular TV show "Mad Men" but I was introduced to 3 minutes of one episode at a photography seminar a few years. The aim was to show the power of photography, but the result was a tug on the heart that's impossible to describe (you can find it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suRDUFpsHus> — watch it and if you don't shed a tear or two, you're stronger than I am).

If nostalgia is "pain from an old wound," then we all can look back on plenty of pain. Perhaps the pain that dogs us most, though, is the pain of the sins and failures of the past that cause us to feel guilt and shame. And without the gospel, we are guilty, indeed; our sins are open wounds, and "there is no balm in Gilead" (Jeremiah 8:22).

Thank God for the gospel, the good news. Yes, there is nostalgia in the gospel, too. We look back on a moment in history when a young man, God in the flesh, suffered unimaginable pain on a cross and it is "by his wounds we are healed" (I Peter 2:24). The old wound that causes the pain — Christ's death — is the same wound that provides the healing of our wound.

Amazing. Grace. Amazing Grace. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (II Corinthians 9:15).