

March 5, 2023

The View

“Sir, 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 six 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 it 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: “Love Your Bible”

Young Adults Class: “Love, Service & Culture”

10:30 AM Assembly

Preaching Today
Scott Gardner

“Modern Day Influencers”

Livestream at 10:30AM at <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class: 5PM @ the Building

“Praying the Psalms” (Auditorium)

High School Class @5 PM - at Barrett & Amiee Cain’s home

*Middle school class: monthly, contact David Sanderson (david.r.sanderson@intel.com)
or Seth Reagan (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 7PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: Love Your Bible

Room 12: Young Adults Class: “Love, Service & Culture”

Influence

by Charles Durham, Jr.

There is an old adage which says, "Actions speak louder than words." And that is the truth. We call it "influence." The power one possesses to sway other people along certain courses of action because of his wealth, position, or ability. Influence, either for good or evil, follows in the wake of one's actions and not of what one says he will do or not do. One of the first places I fully came to be aware of this power was in the parent-child relationship. I would see parents warning their children not to smoke. In between their admonitions that smoking caused halitosis, hacking coughs, and lung cancer would be a puff from a cigarette and this feeble rebuke, "Now, don't do as I do but do as I tell you to do." Given man's propensity toward evil, I knew how far that advice went for the betterment of mankind.

What makes influence such a powerful tool is the fact that each of us possess it. There are people who watch us, who admire something about us, who imitate our actions. If put to its proper use, influence can be a great means of leading someone to obey Christ. Listen to Jesus, "For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Jesus spoke of actions. Paul wrote, "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). His apostle wrote of deeds. Peter said, "For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). To follow anyone's footsteps, we must walk. The word "example" as used by Peter literally means "an under-writing." It refers to teaching children the alphabet. A copy of the letters of the alphabet would be distributed to each child. They would write underneath the example of the letter as it should be drawn, trying to reproduce it as closely as possible. We must pattern our lives after Jesus. We must do our best to live as he lived, "to be holy as He is holy." Thus, "by their fruits ye shall know them."

Influence begins with the heart. Only as we keep the seat of our intellect, emotions, and will unmixed with evil, can we expect to wield the silent power of influence for good. Solomon wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). In the ASV, "with all diligence" is footnoted "above all that thou guardest." We must see the necessity of keeping our heart right with God. We must see the danger in letting our thoughts aimlessly wander from sin to sin, of toying with its pleasures in our mind, of calculating our pursuit of it. We must heed the Lord, who was tempted like we are tempted, yet without sin, for He said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mk. 7:21-23).

Influence is the result of doing good. If influence is sought for its own sake, then it is a matter of selfish pride and not an attempt to glorify God. The Pharisees were guilty of seeking their own glory above the glory of the Father. They loved to spread their influence for the sake of spreading their influence (cf. Matt. 6:1-5). Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world... so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heav-

en" (Matt. 5:13, 14, 16). The reason we do good works and influence others to do good works is not "to be seen of men." Rather, that being seen, others may understand that we serve God to glorify Him. We are the light of the world. We must penetrate the evil world and show forth the excellencies of Christ as surely as the light of a burning star pierces the darkness of night. We must preserve from corruption by giving life to people who are spiritually dying as surely as salt gives protection to meat that would decay and become rancid without it (cf. Phil. 2:15, 16).

And above all things we must be steadfast, unmovable, constant in our endeavor to serve God. We cannot fellowship evil and expect our influence to be good. We must not fraternize the enemy. Our teachings and deeds must be consistent. Surely we can see this in the life of Jesus. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30 KJV).

Intentions Won't Get It

Dee Bowman

Some of the proverbial expressions not found in the Bible are nonetheless true. Truth will always plumb with all other truth; it cannot contradict itself. Take the expression "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." That 's not in the scriptures, but I fear it's true nonetheless. Nobody that I've ever heard of really wants to go to hell; and everybody I know intends to do something about not making that trip. But when? That's the question.

"I intend to be more diligent." Diligence is necessary to progress in spiritual living. You can't just sit around and become spiritual. Furthermore, it doesn't come by some process of osmosis—or just because you are in close proximity to a Bible, or to others who believe it and are involved in it. Diligence is a personal, willful action: you decide to do it. In the NKJV, 2 Tim. 2:15 says, "Give diligence to present yourself approved to God." The word translated diligence is from a Latin word which means to give earnest persistence to a matter. The Greek word means both an earnest zeal and a burning haste to get it done. You can't just sit around and be still be diligent.

Peter tells us something about diligence when he uses that same term to describe what have been styled "The Christian Graces" in 2 Peter 1. "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self control, to self control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love." You don't add those things up in your mind and you're through—it's a life-long pursuit. And it all begins with the decision to get on with the project. That means you develop a serious conviction and a pressing urgency to the need to add all those things to your life. Intentions won't get it; it takes work.

"I intend to get involved." When? And what's wrong with today? Intentions won't get it, folks. You can only get involved when you participate with someone in something, become a

part—a working part. The “someone” is other brethren and the “something” is the work you’ve decided to do together. Paul speaks of joint participation in Romans 12: “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” We’re individuals who are melded together in the fight against sin and ungodliness. And we’re together in our common worship of the Father, in our desire to bring others to Him. We’re together, and being together takes work, patience, understanding; and it takes time. But it doesn’t just happen. It’s a planned action. Intentions don’t work, folks.

“I intend to tell somebody.” I seriously doubt that anybody is going to heaven alone. You will go with someone and you will take someone. Just as somebody loved us enough to tell us about the Lord and His salvation, it’s up to us to pass it on. Not just intend to, mind you, but to do it. Everybody intends to talk to their family, to their neighbor, but that won’t get it. You have to run the risk. And if you lose a friend over it, it’s no more than what the Lord did.

“As many as were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word” we are told in Acts 8:4. Not just the preachers, not just the elders, but “as many as were scattered.” Everybody has the responsibility to pass on the message of the risen Savior and His salvation. It may be that the great deficiency of the church in this age is the failure of its members to get involved in teaching others. Oh, they intend to. But intentions won’t get it, folks.

And you don’t have to be a Bible scholar to teach the word. All you need is a note pad and a knowledge of the scriptures broad enough to tell someone what you did to be saved. Following the great commission in Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, “...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” What did He just command? “Go therefore and teach all nations,” that’s what. Maybe you intend to do it but you don’t have the ability? Then help someone else do it. Be a part. One thing is certain: it needs to be told. And intentions won’t get it done; you have to get on with it.

When it’s all said and done and you stand before the bar of judgment, can you say to the Lord, with a clear conscience, “Lord, I intended to?”

Love's Labor Is Never Lost

Jay Graham

Not all the Christian life is a "bed of roses". In fact very little of it is, for Satan is trying everything in his power to discourage and weary us from "well-doing" (Gal. 6:9). He wants us to feel like we are unloved and unappreciated. He knows if he can convince us that our fellowman, brethren, and even God does not care for the work and labor we are doing, then there is a good chance we will quit. And he watches us go down hill from there regarding our spiritual life. Part of the Christian life is realizing God does indeed care. And not only God, but our brethren as well, (at least the ones who are truly brethren). Our Father is interested in the work we are doing; not because of its benefits to Him, but because of its benefits to us.

God does not "need" anything we can give Him. He does not need our money, sacrifices, time, or even love. He is completely and totally self-sufficient. We are the ones that benefit from our work. For example, it is to my good if I take the time to assemble with the brethren, and when my good works are helping glorify God, (1 Pet. 2:12) it is to my advantage. God knows that.

Therefore I can be of invaluable asset to my brethren as well. Not only can I help teach, learn, and guide, but the very fact I am a brother gives them an opportunity to serve me as well. In turn this helps them please the Master. Part of my love for the brethren is allowing them to serve me when I am in need, (and how many of us are never in need?). Isn't it arrogant of me to offer to serve my brother and not allow him an opportunity to serve me? Am I so strong I don't need help? (1 Cor. 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands lest he fall.").

Consider our labor for the world. Though most in the world does not acknowledge or appreciate our love toward them, our love is never wasted. At the very least it may be observed by a few who are truly searching for an answer to their life. Through us and our answer they may find it. At the most, it helps us grow and mature into a more perfect image of Christ.

With these thoughts in mind, is our love in any way wasted? The Father cares and is concerned about how we labor with our love. Our brethren are appreciative and thankful for our part in their development. And some in the world may see our example and "glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:12). And of those in the world who are not interested; remember the world hated Christ first.

Gal. 6:9 "Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."



Read your Bible