

March 12, 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

David Posey

“How To Pray”

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

Bible Class: 5PM @ the Building

“Praying the Psalms” (Auditorium)

High School Class @5 PM - at David & Christie’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”

Behold Your God!

Bill Moseley

On the tableland of God's inspired volume, the Bible, there is one book that has always to this writer risen as a towering monument to the greatness of God – the great prophecy of Isaiah. It is there – lofty, majestic, issuing great promises to the remnant under the Messiah, and at the same time threatening judgments to the enemies of Jehovah. It was this great prophet who called upon Judah to "behold your God!" (Isa. 40:9). Yet an ungrateful nation had rejected God, even as the world by and large has today. It is high time that people, especially those that are His, again begin to "behold our God."

The prophet begins to show God's greatness by setting beside Him the universe which He created. This is the God that "measured the waters in the hollow of his hand" (v. 12). He is the one who "meted out the heaven with the span" (ibid.). Here is a picture of God, holding forth the "span," which was about nine inches, reaching from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger of outstretched hand. When God made this world, it was almost as if He was saying, "here is my span; my world shall be as this to me." And so it was. He is pictured holding a vessel, and in it is the dust of the earth, and he knew every grain. The prophet shows us Judah's God with a scale in his hand, weighing the very mountains! Truly, we serve no puny God!

Isaiah then shows man's insignificance compared to this God. What man is there that is in a position to tell God anything (v. 13)? There is not a one! When God set about His great creative work, to whom did He have to go for advice? Who had knowledge about this process that God did not have? Not a one. Here is a God possessed of omnipotence and need not ask advice of any man.

Every nation is subject to the decrees of God (v. 15). All through Old Testament history the nations were moved at the decree of God. If He decided to use them to achieve His purpose, they achieved it. If, because of their wickedness, God destroyed them, they sat there – immobile and impotent while the stroke of His fury reduced them to nothing. Truly, the nations are "as a drop of a bucket" compared to Him. All the earth and all that it contains is not sufficient to give Him what He truly deserves. "Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering" (v. 16). If every cedar was hewn down from Lebanon; if every beast was brought as a sacrifice, they would still fall far short of a truly sufficient sacrifice. And so in His mercy, God allows man to make the sacrifices that he can make – and God will accept them if they are what He has asked for.

God is far superior to the idol-gods of man (v. 18f). Their gods of sticks and stones, yea even of gold and silver, are nothing compared to Him. The workman may make them, but when they are finished, there they sit – they "shall not

be moved" (v. 20). Whatever idol; whatever "god" a man may have will not benefit him. They are merely the work of men's hands and will be destroyed.

And so, "have ye not known? have ye not heard ...?" (vv. 21, 28). Here is a God that never wearies; never grows faint, and will bear those up who will worship and serve Him as the God of the universe. He "hath given power to the faint" (v. 29), to the extent that they "shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (v. 31). This is probably an allusion to the joyous times when the captive nation would return from bondage of Babylon. But can we not enjoy this promise today? As we seek to leave one day what Ronald Reagan once called "the surly bond of earth" and "touch the face of God," do we not realize what a God we have at our disposal?

Yes, "Judah, behold your God!" But also to God's people today, "behold your God!" Serve Him; worship Him and enjoy His blessings. Fail to recognize His greatness at your own risk and eternal peril.

A Woman's Contribution to the Local Church

Gary Henry

Timothy, whose mother and grandmother taught him well, is not the only Christian whose life has been shaped by godly women. There is likely not a person who is strong in the Lord and effective in his work who does not owe profound gratitude to several women for the role they have played in his or her spiritual development. It would be hard to overestimate the contribution that women make to the local congregation. Since their special endowments suit them for important work, women are not merely useful to the Lord's work, they are absolutely critical.

Paul's remarks about Phoebe are instructive. He wrote to the church in Rome: "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also" (Rom. 16:1,2). He does not specify what kind of service Phoebe was rendering, but Paul's language clearly shows that this sister was doing things in the Lord's work that amounted to far more than a token contribution. She is described as a "servant of the church in Cenchrea." Paul said that she had been "a helper of many and of myself also." Her work was important enough that Paul instructed the church in Rome to assist her in what-

ever way she had need while she was there. This passage alone is enough to teach us that there is ample scope within the Lord's work for women to serve in deeply significant ways.

Benevolence. Seeing to the needs of those who are sick, those who are impoverished, etc. is not just work for women. The Lord's people, men no less than women, need to do more than we sometimes do to help meet physical needs among the saints (Jas. 2:14-16; 1 Jn. 3:17,18). There can be no question, however, that sisters in the Lord are capable of bringing to this important work a grace and a beauty that men are normally not capable of. Certainly, the women who waited upon the physical needs of the Lord himself (Matt. 27:55; Lk. 8:3) added a touch of grace that his male disciples were hardly able to supply. Being a disciple of the Lord means putting ourselves on the line for those who need us (Jn. 13:12-17), and the unique attributes of femininity make the work of benevolence far more heartening than it would be without them.

Edification. Numerous passages speak of our need, whether men or women, to encourage and strengthen our fellow saints. The specifics will vary depending on whether it is a man or a woman doing the edifying, but I believe instructions like the following have important implications for the spiritual work of women as well as men: "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2); "comfort each other and edify one another" (1 Thess. 5:11); "comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak" (1 Thess. 5:14).

This writer can personally testify to the powerful and unique ability of sisters in the Lord to encourage. Time and again in my life I have been the beneficiary of words and actions of edification that have come from women among the Lord's people. I do not doubt that, as a gospel preacher, my survival spiritually and my continuation as a preacher is largely the result of strength imparted to me by sisters who knew exactly what to say and how to say it. In the "hospital for souls" that is the local congregation, we desperately need what women can do to bind up wounds and lift spirits. Especially in a day when personal crises, difficulties in relationships, emotional problems, and family breakdowns are so widespread, the gift of encouragement that God has made women able to give is essential.

There is a special need for women to see themselves as teachers of other women and of young people. We have already mentioned the impact on Timothy's life of his mother's and his grandmother's teaching. The Scriptures also indicate that older women are to teach younger women: "the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things, that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed" (Tit. 2:3-5). As the family unit in society continues to deteriorate and the teaching network of the extended family is lost, I believe there will be all the more need for spiritually mature women in congregations to assume the role of edifiers and teachers of the wisdom that used to be passed down by parents and grandparents. Without this womanly wisdom about the basic business of living life, our congregational work is seriously hindered.

Evangelism. Not only are women capable of being edifiers, it is possible for them to play an important role in evangelism, the work of teaching those who have not yet obeyed the gospel. The realm of personal evangelism contains many opportunities for women to plant the seed of the gospel in the hearts of those who are lost. We are told that both Aquila and Priscilla were involved in teaching Apollos the way of God more perfectly (Acts 18:26). In more than one place, Paul speaks of women who were fellow workers in the gospel (Rom. 16:3,6,12; etc.). Of Euodia and Syntyche, he said, "Help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life" (Phil. 4:3).

The scriptural limitations on the teaching work of women (1 Tim. 2:12; etc.) should never be thought of as barring women from any participation in the work of rescuing lost souls. Indeed, there are times when individuals can be won to the Lord by the efforts of a woman when it is not likely they could be won any other way. Women who have both a deep love for the Lord and a skilled understanding of the Scriptures are powerful forces in the work of evangelism. We need more women who will accept the challenge of doing all they can do, uniquely as women, to win the world to Christ. The imperative of the Great Commission applies not just to men, but to all the saints of God.

To conclude, there is much that women can do to invest themselves in the work of the local church. The very act of praying for the work is no small thing. Beyond that, there is a wide range of specific activities by which women, without at all stepping beyond scriptural boundaries, may contribute to the benevolence, edification, and evangelism that their fellow Christians are engaged in. Every single member of the body has the duty to "adorn the doctrine of God" (Tit. 2:10). It is not too much to say, considering the high gifts granted by God to women, that the gospel is never adorned any more beautifully than when women of the Lord love and work and serve faithfully in his work



Read your Bible