

April 2, 2023

# 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: "Love Your Bible" (Part II). New quarter starts today.*

*Young Adult Class (room 12): "A Study of Ruth, and 1 John: Trust & Love"*

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

Scott Gardner

*"Love Your Enemies"*

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

#### Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

*"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: Love Your Bible, Part II*

*Room 12: Young Adults Class: "A Study of Ruth, and 1 John: Trust & Love"*

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Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author not necessarily the editor or the church at Folsom

# Love Your Bible Class Continues

Today, we begin the second phase of our “Love Your Bible” class. Personally, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed teaching, learning from other teachers and listening to those who told us why they love the Bible for the last three months. This quarter, building on what we’ve learned in the last several months, we will spend some time digging a little deeper into how to study the Bible. We’ll use a basic Bible study method that utilizes the *observation, interpretation, application* method that we introduced last quarter. In our class, we will be putting what we learn into practice by applying the method to several texts from both Old and New Testaments.

Due to limited time, the lessons on Bible study in class will be rudimentary. However, we encourage students to review previous classes on various aspects of the Bible including “How We Got Our Bible” (Mike Wilson’s lessons on November 13-16 2022), Ed Sanderson’s quarter-long series of classes on how to study wisdom literature (summer quarter, 2022), Terry Raposa’s class on I and II Timothy and Titus (fall quarter, 2022) and our *Love Your Bible* classes last quarter.

All of these classes are available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@folsomchurchofchrist3777/streams>. We encourage you to review those classes, especially if you are new to the class this quarter. I will also be sending out Bible study material before next Sunday’s class. We’ll use that for reference as we proceed through the quarter. The material will assist those who are inclined to go deeper than we can go in the classroom and, for those who wish to dig even deeper, I’ve included a recommended reading list.

Scott Gardner and I will be facilitating the classes but, like last quarter, we will also hear from others from time-to-time.

Today, we’ll briefly review some of what we learned last quarter and talk a little more about what is in store for this quarter. If you cannot attend the class this quarter, you can review it on YouTube at the link above.

DAVID POSEY  
[dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com)

## “A cappella Evangelism”

Some people believe we would convert more people to Christ if we used instrumental music in our services. This is a wrong opinion. In the church’s beginning, no instruments of music were used in worship, yet the early church impacted the mighty Roman Empire and spread throughout it like wildfire. When churches began to be like the world, they lost their influence.

Instrumental music is what the world expects in worship. If we use it, we only become more like the world. If acappella music was effective in the entertainment-oriented Roman Empire, it can be effective in attracting people to Jesus Christ in our modern entertainment-oriented culture.

This means the command to “sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19) must be obeyed correctly, with the proper spirit and attitude, if singing is to be as effective as it should be.

Compare our singing to preaching. Is it enough that we just preach the Word? Yes, we want only the word of God, but don’t we also care about its presentation? Don’t we want the preacher to present the word in love, with adequate preparation? Don’t we appreciate zeal in the teacher? Don’t we want him to do his best to be engaging and boldly teach truth? Have you ever sat in a lifeless and boring Bible class? The scriptures were taught alright, but if all the teacher did was read a text and ask if there were any

questions about it, we would seek another teacher! Have you ever heard boring congregational singing? Shouldn’t we put into the singing what we think should be put into the teaching? Will this not make singing more instructive and edifying? Since singing is “teaching and admonishing” (Col. 3:16), surely we can see the need to make it as interesting and engaging as we can.

Consider how to make singing evangelistic:

- **Sing to the glory of God.** “Do all to the glory of God” says I Cor. 10:31. Apply this to each song we sing.
- **Sing in love.** I Cor. 16:14 says, “Let all that you do be done with love.” Apply this to singing. Does love for God and our neighbor fill our hearts as we sing?
- **Sing to the best of your ability.** Eccl. 9:10 speaks of the hand, but the principle also applies to the heart. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might”. We readily apply this to other things, but do we do so with our congregational singing? We have been so convinced we must not use instruments of music, that we tend to think we are doing our best if all we do is not use instruments! But there is more to it than this.

Our singing *is* teaching. It can assist in saving souls.

MARK W. WHITE  
CYPRESS, TEXAS

# Observation about Us — the Folsom Church

When the elders meet, as we do at least once-a-month, we typically have several things on the agenda. But there is one thing that is *always* on the agenda and that is to make sure everything we do is according to God's word. I Timothy 3:15 is central in our thoughts:

"...but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one should act in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."

So we aim to create and maintain a culture that draws people to Christ — *not to the church itself or any individual in it*. Our only aim is to exalt Jesus not "to make a name for ourselves." Paul said in Ephesians 3:20-21,

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

That's our prayer — in everything we do, to glorify God through our devotion and allegiance to Christ.

## How are we doing?

In an issue of the *View* a couple of months ago, we published comments from the elders on the "state of the church." The aim in those articles was to provide some numbers (finances, attendance, baptisms, etc.) and some comments on our progress and issues we need to address.

Today, I would like to address what I believe we are doing right and why I feel you can recommend this church to your friends and family. You may accuse me of having a vested interest because I'm on the payroll, but I would hope we all have a "vested interest." But I'm doing my best to be as objective as possible and take my "elder and preacher self" out of it (these are my *personal* observations).

As most of you know, I grew up on the pew. Specifically, that means that I've been in a church of Christ building virtually every Sunday and Wednesday since I was a baby. That's seven decades of attending churches, mostly in California: we were members of churches in Costa Mesa, Escalon, Manteca (when we started the church there), Huntington Beach (3 separate times) and Folsom. We were also in Hawaii for a year and a half. We have visited churches all over the US and often visit smaller churches to encourage them.

So, if nothing else, I've got a lot of experience and perspective. I try not to compare Folsom with other churches (though, I confess I have to try really hard not to do that). And I'm not exaggerating when I say that in the eyes of some of our brethren in the US, the fact that we are located in California means it is impossible for this church to be a strong church. I'm not kidding though it's not as bad as it used to be. Way back when Angie attended Florida College, a student from Indiana asked her if there were "any sound churches in California." She wasn't kidding; where do you think she got that?

I've recently emphasized the fact that the church grew rapidly in an environment much worse than California — called "The Roman Empire." Yet, neither Jesus nor Paul

told anyone to move to find a more comfortable place. (Caveat: I'm not criticizing any of our former members who have chosen to move; after all, I've moved my share of times as well).

There are many fine churches in the US and beyond that I would readily recommend. Here's why I can recommend the Folsom church.

1. We do only what is clearly authorized in the New Testament. The church belongs to the King, Christ, not to us. I Timothy 3:15 gives us our "marching orders."
2. Though we live in a crooked, sometimes depressing, world, when we come to worship God, most people seem to be in a positive mood. That's refreshing.
3. We have so many talented individuals here who are using their abilities for the benefit of the church. There are also many who want to develop their talents further so they can serve more effectively.
4. We put an emphasis on teaching and training our young people here. That is not the case in every church I'm familiar with but we fiercely believe that our kids are not only the "future of the church," but a vital part of the current work here at Folsom.
5. In teaching, with some exceptions, we've purposely cultivated a "student-centered" approach rather than a teacher-centered approach. In other words, we attempt to involve the students through the use of dialogue and, at the younger ages, activities that will help them remember what they are being taught. The exception, of course, is the weekly sermon and on those occasions when a topic must be explained in more detail. Even then, we attempt to be conversational vs. overly formal in our presentations.
6. Finally, as one who grew up during the divisions over institutionalism in the 1960s, I'm thankful to God for the unity we enjoy here. The elders are doing everything in our power to make sure that doesn't change.

No church, including Folsom, is perfect. But we are committed to being a church that follows God's word to the letter and serves the purpose for which Christ died — to save the lost and edify the saved.

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