

April 9, 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).*

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

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

David Posey

*“Your Resurrection”*

*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 alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom

# Words on the World

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." *Jesus, John 17:16*

## The World Has Gone Mad Today

There are things taking place in America today that are troubling and depressing to many of us: violence in the streets of major cities and the lack of justice in those cities where criminals are treated as victims; LGBTQ and trans activists disrupting speakers they disagree with at universities; biological

"Churches have changed radically as well. It is not at all uncommon to see a pride flag draping the outside of a downtown church building. There are several denominations in Sacramento that participate in LGBTQ activities such as the Gay Pride parade."

men identifying as women and competing in sports; the affirmation of the gay and trans lifestyle, even by ministers in churches/ Then there are polls that show a shocking decrease in the number of people who think religion is important: from 61% in 1998 to 38% today. There are too many concerns to list. We would like to

see changes for the better but it seems unlikely. Ironically, it would probably take a world war to bring some people back to their senses.

So, it's bad. But perspective helps. The quote in the box below is from songwriter Cole Porter. What year do you think that was written? *See page 4.*

Guess who said this:

"Our youth now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Youth are now tyrants, not the servants of the household nor do they preserve any longer shame before the sight of men or woman." (Answer on page 4).

In the Bible, we read the words of prophets who despaired of any change in their lifetimes. Isaiah 5:20,

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Jeremiah wrote,

Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush.

Churches have changed radically as well. It is not at all uncommon to see a pride flag draping the outside of a downtown church building. There are several denominations in Sacramento that participate in LGBTQ activities such as the Gay Pride parade and welcome homosexuals "with open arms" – not to help them overcome their sin, but to "affirm" them in their sin. Romans 1:32 is very 2023:

Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but *give approval to those who practice them.*

Then there is social media. How many people are addicted to Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook or other sites? I got caught up in Facebook for awhile before I realized how much time it was killing. Before social media took ahold of millions of Americans, author Os Guinness wrote a book, *Dining with the Devil*, in which he said, "Hell will be full of newspapers with a fresh edition every 30 seconds, so that no one will ever feel caught up" (p. 63). That was in 1993. That seems to identify some of these sites like Twitter, for example.

Yes, "the world has gone mad today," but that's not so different than in the past. The issues are different, maybe, but the attitudes and mood are the same. It got so bad after creation that God destroyed the world because he regretted that he made man. One can only wonder how he feels today as he watches his creation go from bad to worse.

### The Modern World

In olden days, a glimpse of stocking  
was looked on as something shocking  
But now heaven knows, *anything goes*

Good authors too –

who once knew better words  
Now only use four-letter words  
Writing prose –*anything goes*  
The world has gone mad today

And good's bad today  
And black's white today  
And day's night today

*Anything goes.*

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# Culture

Cultural issues, trends, warnings

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## Work vs. Worship

**What it is:** The Atlantic's Derek Thompson charts the rise of "workism," a cultural phenomenon that positions work as the thing that provides what people used to expect from organized religion.

**Why it's different for teens:** Thompson points out that the idea of "work" has evolved from the simple concept of a job to pay the bills and into a cultural conversation about "calling." A poll published last week in the Wall Street Journal backs up this claim, finding that self-fulfillment and community were held as less valuable than hard work. Patriotism, religion, and having children were also seen as less valuable than working hard and having money. But that's only half the story. Gen Z is reportedly less engaged with the workplace, less

Did you know that the Chinese government does not permit its children to access the United States' version of TikTok, Chinese TikTok is utilized for educational purposes.

loyal to employers, and at the forefront of trends such as "quiet quitting," the "Great Resignation," and "bare minimum Mondays." Without work, community, family, or religion to define their lives, it's hard to imagine just what will fill the void of meaning for these younger people.

## "Fizzling"

A dating trend called "fizzling" is taking the place of ghosting. Fizzling is a slang term for intentionally winding down your communication with someone you're dating until your texts and calls become nonexistent. It's basically a way of sending the message that you aren't interested without having to have an explicit conversation explaining that the relationship is ending. People who have been subjected to "fizzling" say it's even worse than the abrupt heartbreak of ghosting, as it prolongs the agony of wondering if someone is just busy or simply not that interested in you.

— Cultural Translator

## Forever Young

*"You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless."*

*Paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 11:9-10*

There's a lot we could unpack about this passage. We could talk about what it means to "follow the ways of your heart" while still knowing that "God will bring you into judgment." We could talk about the difficulty of "banishing anxiety from your heart," especially for Gen Z. But more than anything, this passage reads like someone coming to grips with how old they are and how much time has gone by. In many ways, the speaker is not who they used to be; the things that seemed to matter so much when they were younger don't matter much anymore.

It's nostalgic. It's bittersweet. And perhaps more than anything, it's an invitation to help the next generation live a better life because of our own experiences.

The word translated as "meaningless" at the end of this passage is the Hebrew word *hebel*, which literally refers to vapor, or smoke. This is something you can see, but can't seize; youth and vigor, like smoke, are gone before we realize. Although the Teenage Look filter\* may have a bigger emotional impact on adults than teenagers, the importance of thinking back to the lives we used to live can unlock tools to better serve the next generation.

Consider these three reflection questions:

- If you could talk to your younger self, what would you say?
- If you could say something to help your younger self prepare for the life ahead of them, what would you say?
- Now, even though you can't actually say these things to your younger self, what could you say to your teen that might help them to live life as wisely as they can?

— Cultural Translator

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\*An app for photos that makes adults look like a teenager.