

November 5, 2023

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 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: A Study of the Parables

Young Adult Class (room 12): “Mind Your King” (Authority)

Room 15/16: The Sermon on the Mount: Relationships

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Hebrews Series: “Jesus: Our Compassionate High Priest”

Hebrews 5:1-10

Livestream at 9:30 & 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

“Praying the Psalms” (Auditorium)

HS/College Class, 5 PM Every Sunday @ David & Christie Posey's home.

Young people monthly meeting (middle school): 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 7 PM @ Building

Classes: same as Sunday 9:30 AM

2nd Saturday Men's Bible Study: 7 to 8 AM

Bel Air Market on Bidwell in Folsom.

“Iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17). Mentoring (Titus 2:1-6).

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.

One Last Verse

This is a moving and edifying article written by Matt Bassford who entered his rest on October 25th after a long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was only 45. I never met Matt in person but I read many of his articles over the year; all of them were challenging without being confrontational. He was also a prolific hymn writer. He wrote a couple of our favorites, "Exalted" and "Servant's Song" and many more. Even after he was diagnosed, he continued to write, although it became increasingly difficult. He could not use his hands and later his voice failed him but he found a way to continue to communicate right up to the end. Reading his articles, you would never know he was suffering from a horrible disease. I don't know when he composed this article, but it was meant to be published after his death (see the second paragraph). **dp**

Throughout my life, there was a series of verses that I identified as "my verse." These were verses that in some way exemplified me or what I needed to become. I kept 2 Timothy 2:24-25 on my bathroom mirror for years because I needed the reminder. Later, I took great encouragement from the promise of Matthew 5:6.

Now that my life is over, one last verse has become mine, though really it is not my verse but yours. It is Hebrews 13:7. My work under the sun has ceased. I no longer speak the word of God to you or anyone else.

However, the Hebrews writer, himself long since departed, imposes three obligations on you. The first is to remember. This is not a matter of sentimentality. Rather, just as there were important spiritual lessons in the word I spoke, so too there are important spiritual lessons in the word I lived.

Do not forget them! Otherwise, you will be like the forgetful hearer of James 1:23-24. If you do not carry the memory of my life within you, you will gain no lasting benefit from having known me.

Second, you must carefully observe my conduct. You must carefully consider it. In this, you must use discernment, just as you use discernment in evaluating any of the flawed heroes of faith in Scripture. At times, you have seen me behave foolishly and even wickedly. My failings certainly are not worthy of imitation!

Despite these stumbles, though, you know that I was a man who walked by faith. Now that my course is finished, consider the outcome of that walk. My path was not always easy. I battled chronic depression throughout the time that you knew

me, and my last year at Jackson Heights was dominated by a devastating terminal diagnosis.

Ask yourselves, then, if it mattered to me that I lived by faith. What would my life have been like if I had been an atheist to whom these things happened? For that matter, what would have become of me if I had been a weak, uncommitted Christian?

You know the answer. Indeed, many of you have known the answer since you were small children.

Those who wisely build on the rock can withstand the flood, but those who build on sand are swept away.

"I was not swept away. ALS invariably destroys unbelievers, but I was not destroyed. Rather, my faith grew stronger throughout my trials, and I've finished my race with joy and hope. The presence of God in my life made all the difference."

I was not swept away. ALS invariably destroys unbelievers, but I was not destroyed. Rather, my faith grew stronger throughout my trials, and I've finished my race with joy and hope. The presence of God in my life made all the difference. Finally, the Hebrews writer urges you to imitate my faith. Don't imitate my imperfections; imitate my loyalty to Christ. It is nearly certain that at some point in your life you will face trials that are beyond your strength

too. It is absolutely certain that your life will end as mine has. The flood is coming for you too, and only the Lord can keep you safe. Build on Him, and you will never regret it.

I believe that the spirits of the departed remain aware of earthly events. That is why we are encouraged to run our race before a great cloud of witnesses. If so, then right now I am cheering for every one of you! Run with endurance. Lay hold of the prize. When you cross the finish line, my beloved, I'll be waiting to welcome you in.

MATT BASSFORD

“Sunday Night Sermons”

“not neglecting to meet together...”

BY DAVID POSEY

Zig Ziegler, a motivational speaker from Yahoo City, Mississippi, reduced raising children to two steps: “*Spank ‘em and take ‘em to church.*” If you say that today, you may be blackballed but if you look objectively at what the world is coming to, you might want to reconsider. But it’s not the “spank ‘em” part I’m talking about here. It’s the “*take ‘em to church*” part.

In my lifetime, especially before I came to Folsom, I saw the steady decline in attendance at services other than Sunday morning. Attendance at Sunday evenings and mid-week classes were always just a percentage of Sunday morning. Often, there was a 50% drop on Sunday nights.

The reason for lack of attendance puzzles preachers and elders is because it’s the least demanding of the things Jesus tells us to do as his disciples. We all have automobiles, the building is comfortable, the people are nice... why would someone stay home instead of coming back to learn and enjoy the fellowship of those “of like precious faith” (II Peter 1:3). Sunday Night Football? Re-runs of Bonanza? School stuff? Why do people skip these assemblies? It’s a mystery. It’s one reason that churches have radically reduced the holding of gospel meetings. In the past 100 years, meetings have gone from 3 weeks, to 2 weeks, to 1 week, to weekend to zero. (Disclaimer: we will be looking at scheduling meetings at our elders’ annual meeting coming up soon. More to come on that).

Most of us can quote Hebrews 10:25 (“*not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near*”). I memorized only because it was repeated so often by preachers and teachers. That’s the text I want to focus on here. I put it under “Sunday Night Sermons” only because we haven’t talked about it very much lately.

In earlier days, attendance sermons on Sunday morning were common — *actually frequent* — and often to no avail. No matter how the topic was approached, the attendance on Sunday & Wednesday nights rarely improved. On occasion, a person would feel guilty and come back that night, but then quickly fall back into their regular Sunday AM-only habit.

As a preacher, I have felt the frustration of this. Beyond the very few who do not drive at night Sunday night assemblies were over before it got dark. (In our present setup, it’s possible to attend a class and an assembly — Sunday at 9:30 and 10:30 — then an afternoon home study, and do it all in the daytime. If you can’t drive at night, you might ask someone to pick you up. Livestreaming is just not the same.

I have never been able to comprehend why members of God’s family didn’t want to be with other members of the family for the two to three hours spent together out of the 168 hours of the week. It has never make any sense to me.

When I came to Folsom in May of 1994, I was amazed because 100% of the Sunday morning audience was back on

Sunday night and Wednesday night. OK, maybe 98%. When I came for a meeting in September 1993, prior to moving here, I had noticed that nearly 100% attendance for the week of that meeting. I didn’t sense that people were there because it was just a habit but because the atmosphere (or culture) was family-like. The members (attendance was about 110 or back then) regarded each other as family and that feeling was palpable. That week in September was eye-opening: here is a church who really wanted to get together, as often as they could.

Credit goes to the elders who were serving then: Bill Moseley (who was also the preacher), Roy Bridge and Jim Fannin. They had done something to create a family-like culture that people were responding to. After I moved here I said, more than once, “I just don’t want to

“stirring one another up to love and good works’ is something every single member, even the most reserved among us, can do.”

mess it up.” I didn’t want to change any thing and I still feel that way. I’m biased, of course, but I don’t understand why anyone would voluntarily skip the opportunity to be an active member of the family here at Folsom (it’s a great family). The easiest way to get there is to attend all the services — at least on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Look at Hebrews 10 again. I mentioned that I heard v. 25 quoted *hundreds* of times (I’m not exaggerating). I was a bit miffed, though, as I got older and realized that I didn’t know the context of verse 25. Look at it — Hebrews 10:21-25:

...since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

There is much to dissect here, but look at the author’s rationale for meeting together; it’s not to meet some selfish goal. We meet together to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” As I thought back on the many times I heard Hebrews 10:25 quoted, I will admit that the failure to quote at least v. 24 with v. 25 frustrated disappointed me. Out of its context, v. 25 simply becomes a wooden rule that we should obey. But in context, we learn the *purpose* of coming together. And “stirring one another up to love and good works” is something every single member, even the most reserved among us, can do. I look over at our young people sitting in the first few rows on either side of the auditorium. Most of them are quiet, unassuming. They have no idea how much their presence here stirs us up to love and good works. That’s true of everyone else as well — from zero to 90 and above. Faithful members are not here just because we told to be here. We are here to do a job... *join us and stir us up!*