

November 19, 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: “Going On to Maturity” Part II

Hebrews 6:1-12

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.

HEBREWS: DIGGING DEEPER

“THEREFORE WE MUST PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION TO WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, LEST WE DRIFT AWAY FROM IT.” (HEBREWS 2:1)

Hebrews weans us away from our preoccupation with the start of the Christian life and focuses our attention on the perseverance of faith. Life is not a sprint; it's a marathon. Faithfulness to the end affirms faith from the beginning. “Today we emphasize the New Birth,” writes Peter Gillquist, “the ancients emphasized being faithful to the end. We moderns talk of wholeness and purposeful living; they spoke of the glories of the eternal kingdom . . . the emphasis in our attention has shifted from the completing of the Christian life to the beginning of it.”

Hebrews is a *tour de force* for the person and work of Christ and a manifesto against respectable, self-justifying religious habits. The sermon counters those who seek, under the guise of tradition, to smuggle back into Christianity the ceremonies and practices that stand fulfilled in Christ. Religion is transcended by the finished work of Christ. There is no hiding behind ancient traditions and cherished rituals. The invisible truths of the gospel take on an altogether new visibility. . . . If we let the Word of God have its way with us, Hebrews will deepen our faith in Christ and strengthen our faithfulness.

On the subject of Hebrews some scholars open their commentaries with the intellectual equivalent of a cold shower. Hebrews is cast as an “enigma” that “poses more problems than any other New Testament book.” The work has “baffled” commentators through the centuries. “If you like puzzles,” one writer claims, “you will like Hebrews.” Another commentator warned that those who study this “strange and fascinating” epistle will quickly find “themselves lost in its serpentine passages and elaborate theological arguments.” To

“...the Preacher of Hebrews beckons the hearers to put on their thinking caps and to enter into the strenuous world of primary theological analysis, where the biblical sources and the philosophical conceptual world of their time interact. What is more, the Preacher is bold enough to assert that all of this wrestling with weighty theological themes is crucial for the practice of the Christian faith in trying times; indeed, it is a matter of life or death. In particular, Hebrews dares to suggest that getting clear about christology, as difficult and tangled as that doctrine is, actually leads to such virtues as steadfastness, hospitality, and hope—in short, the ability to “keep on keeping on” in the service of Christ. More surprising, perhaps, the writer of Hebrews appears also to be persuaded that the reverse is true as well, that walking the pilgrim way obediently and with faithful endurance clarifies one’s christology, deepens theological wisdom, and increases the knowledge of God.

THOMAS G. HEBREWS, INTERPRETATION: A BIBLE COMMENTARY FOR TEACHING AND PREACHING, P. 32

explore Hebrews is to trek “through beautiful but imposing theological and homiletical terrain.”

Martin Luther had some high praise for Hebrews but he also called it “a disorderly mixture of wood and stubble, gold and silver, not representing apostolic levels of thought.” Another biblical scholar warned that if you “descend into the

murky cave of Hebrews,” be ready to experience the frustrating secrets of authorship, destination, date, and audience. But what if the problem is not Hebrews, but our bias against the unfamiliar terrain of this powerful sermon?

“We live in a ‘Googlized’ world,” warns Timothy Tennent, “which is inundated with information, but most of it trivial. We live in a day which resists serious, long-term, reflection. We live in a time when Coptic Christians are being beheaded and the next morning’s headlines are still about the Kardashians. The trivialization of information, the reductionism of all things sacred, and the shockingly short attention span, all confront you as bearers of the sacred gospel in the 21st century.”

Hebrews challenges our retreat from the Word of God. Sadly, we have acquired over time and with remarkable ingenuity a calculated incapacity to think and communicate about anything other than the shallow level of small talk, sound-bite snippets, and instant messaging. “Our capacity for reflection and understanding has retracted, as our ability to sort through the data has expanded,” asserts Nicholas Carr. “I’m not thinking the way I used to think. . . . The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle.” The impact of retreating from the word, scanning over reading, cobbling together a customized worldview, and preferring images over words, has not only changed the way we communicate, but the way we think. Preaching Hebrews is our opportunity “to go forth and inhabit a robust, muscular, deeply rooted apostolic gospel.”

— Excerpt from Douglas D. Webster, *Preaching Hebrews*

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” Hebrews 1:1-2

The Greek word for “world” is *aiōn* not *kosmos*, the typical word used for the created universe. Greek scholar Richard Chenevix Trench says, in his classic work, *Synonyms of the New Testament*, that *aiōn* can refer to the world (the present age) in motion – all that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations – at any time current in the world. . . . He goes on to say that *aiōn* refers to *the spirit or genius of the age* – thus it comes to signify (for *this age*) all which exists in the world under conditions of time . . . and then, more ethically, the course and current of this world’s affairs.” Most of the persons of the Bible available to us translate *aiōn* “world” not age but it’s interesting to think about it from another angle.

DAVID POSEY

Trust Your Kids?

BY DAVID POSEY

I don't need to remind you that we live in a dangerous, complicated world. Even so, I've seen a tendency in many parents to trust children who have not in any way proved they are worthy of it. And that trust could not only spoil your child, but put his or her physical life in jeopardy. Right up front, I'll tell you that I was a kid (age 3 to 13) in the 50's and my parents shouldn't have trusted me as much as they did. I got in my share of trouble, most of which my parents never knew about.

Today, too many parents cower in fear of their children; maybe I'm just old fashioned (I am; I admit it), but this perplexes me. Evidence of this fear is that these parents would never think of checking out how their children are using their phones or computers and they are afraid to go into their room to see if anything untoward is going on there. That would be “invading their privacy.”

Seriously? Think about it. “Their phone? Their room?” “Privacy”? Where do parents get the idea that their kids have a right to privacy when they are still living at home? Why do some parents *fear* their children? They are afraid that their kids won't like them or, maybe worse, they're afraid that they won't be “pals” with their kids.

Bulletin: you are not your child's pal. You are a parent.

Get your kids raised in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4) — that's job number one. Do that, then you can be friends for the rest of your life. But first things first.

Our two children will confirm that we had no problem walking into their room at any time and looking at their stuff to make sure they were not trying to pull the wool over our eyes. They will also admit that they succeeded in pulling the wool over our eyes now and then, as all of us did with our parents. Our hope, however, was that by holding out the possibility of a military-like “surprise inspection,” they would be less inclined to dabble in secret stuff that could cause them irreparable harm or damage their reputation.

Kids have *always* complained about parents not trusting them but in the last 20 years the “secrecy” thing has reached critical mass. Most kids have cell phones and computers. All of them are capable of hooking up to the Internet and, therefore, are capable of hanging out with people (virtually) that they shouldn't be hanging out with (I Corinthians 15:32-33). If precautions aren't in place, they

can easily visit porn websites which makes movie ratings a joke. A young teenager alone with an unfiltered computer or phone has all the access he or she could imagine to all kinds of perverted garbage. It doesn't mean they are bad kids, but curiosity may get the best of them at an age when the hormones are raging nearly out of control.

Experts tell us that “sexting” has reached epidemic levels, too. Unfortunately, a parent can't just check the kid's phone to see if they have been sending or receiving dubious messages. There are apps that allow a person to send a text — or a photo — that disappears in a minute or two. While it's true that the text or photo is still out there in cyberspace, there is no obvious way to find out that your child sent or received a pornographic or threatening text.

“Threatening” text — there's another issue. Cyber-bullying is a problem and the faceless Internet has provided cover for some kids who want to bully others. These kids would never do it on the playground, like in the old days, where someone might see them. And, of course, some parents are so naive that they will say, “Oh, my dear Johnny (or Joanie) would never do such a thing!” Naïveté in a parent is a disease and has made a fool out of many of them.

Even worse, the Internet allows people to cover up their true age and intent. A naive young person

is what these creeps are searching for. Don't let your kids be one of them! Don't be so concerned with offending your child that you forget that the issue is their safety and security and, ultimately, their soul.

Trust your kids? Have they earned it? If so, great. Even then, dole out privileges that require trust in very small packages. Test your kids; it takes awhile to build true character and they need a lot of help.

If you don't like the idea of not trusting your kids, I've come up with something that might make it a bit easier: *suspend belief*. Until they prove themselves trustworthy, keep your options open.

I wouldn't be very good at doing what I'm trying to persuade you to do. But that's because I'm a grandfather; a softie now who did my time years ago. Don't expect grandparents or others to raise your kids; that won't work. It's your job and it's not easy.

“Bulletin: you are not your child's pal. You are a parent. Get your kids raised in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4) — that's job number one. Do that, then you can be friends for the rest of your life. But first things first.”