

October 6, 2024

# The View

“Sir, 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 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: Ecclesiastes*

*Young Adult Class (room 12) “Acts, Sharing Our Faith”*

*Room 13/14: “Relationships”*

#### 10:30 AM Assembly

Preaching Today : David Posey

*Sermon: Open Hearts For Those In Need - Part4*

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

#### Bible Class: 500 PM @ the Building

*Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)*

#### Additional Classes

High School Class, 5 PM - Sunday– David & Christie Posey’s home

Young people monthly meeting (middle school): contact David Sanderson or Seth Reagan

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.

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).

#### Wednesday 7PM @ Building

Classes: same as Sunday 9:30 AM

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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.

# A Story That Is Told

Dee Bowman

The Psalmist said, “We spend our days as a tale that is told” (Psalm 90:9). It’s a fitting description of life, isn’t it? We do indeed spend our days as a tale that is told. There are several things about that that I like. Let me explain.

First, let it be noted that life is a spending of time. We spend our days, he says. All of us are born into time. Time is what we’re all about. Time is all we have. Without time we’re nothing. We don’t actually know how much time we have to spend, we just know that we have some. In fact, we only know about the here and now. We can do little about the past—it’s forever gone; we can resolve for the future. But the here and now is all we have. “Spend” is the operative word here. To spend means “to expend.” In fact, “spend” is taken from the Latin *expendre*, to expend. So we expend our time, however much we have. That being so, it follows that we should do what we’re going to do today, “for the night cometh when no man can work,” when we’ve spent all our time.

Secondly, please note that the expenditure of time is a personal choice. How we spend our time is our choice. We spend it. We can do whatever we want with it. Now there are always some consequences attached to that choice, but the choice is ours nonetheless. For instance, if we want to squander our time, we can make that choice. And conversely, if we want to apply ourselves to some worthwhile project, we can. In fact, worthwhile is comprised of worth and while, worth having to do with value and while having to do with time. A worthwhile project is one worth the spending of the time it takes to do it. Lots of considerations figure into how we spend our time, but in the finality of things, how I spend my time is up to me.

Thirdly, please notice that we spend our time as a tale. A tale is a story that is told. Each of us is writing his own story. That’s not exactly where we get the word history, but the connotation is easy to remember that way. Every man has his story. History is a narrative of events, a chronological (do you see “time” in that?) record of what has happened. It is a story that covers a certain amount of time. It may be the story of a people, a project, or a person, but it is the same in each case; it’s all about how time was spent.

In our own personal lives, we are writing our own history. A man will be judged by the story he has written. I won’t be judged by yours (although your story may have an effect on mine, or mine on yours), but I will be judged on my own story, the one I have written. “We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10). And “...everyone of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). So we need to be careful how we write. We need to see to it that our story is a good one.

Finally, notice that we spend our days as a tale that is told. When the tale is told, it’s over. You can’t go back and erase part of it or change some line you don’t like or blot out some chapter that is offensive or repugnant. (Aren’t we grateful that, while we can’t erase anything, God can; that’s what forgiveness is all about and why it’s so important.) When you’ve written your tale—told your story—it’s over. “Be ye therefore steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, inasmuch as ye know

that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58X) is good advice, then, isn’t it? To labor to write well just makes good sense.

Now let me extract several statements from this little piece that seem to me to be especially significant in view of the new year that is upon us.

We spend our days.

How we spend our time is our choice.

A man will be judged by that story he has written.

When you’ve written your tale, told your story, it’s over

So we need to be careful how we write.

What will your story be, will your story have a happy ending?

## Make God Your Confidence

*“Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident.” —Psalm 27:3*

David is a primary figure not only within Judaism but to everyone who believes the Bible. He was described as a man who was after (in pursuit of) God’s own heart. It is powerful and beautiful that although he was a warrior, David had a sensitive soul and loved HaShem deeply. And as today’s verse indicates, he had incredible confidence in God.

Every human being in every generation is assaulted by fear at some point. All around us there are problems and threats that we can neither prevent nor control. Natural disasters sometimes strike without warning. An accident or bad doctor’s report can change a person’s life in a moment. Financial concerns torment many. And, of course, the biggest fear that plagues mankind is the fear of death. Why? Because we have no control over it. We don’t know when or how we’re going to die, and sadly, many people have no idea where they’re going when they die, and the fear of the unknown is the most ominous of all.

But when we put our confidence in God, no matter what we’re facing—whether it’s death, things past, things present, things to come, or any created thing—we become more than conquerors through Him who loves us. (See Romans 8:35–39.) God is our confidence. David declared, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?” (Ps. 27:1). I believe Messiah Jesus is saying to you and me today, “Be strong and courageous in Me. Be afraid of nothing.”

Kirt Schneider.

People with a Jewish background use HaShem for God or the Lord. Literally it means "The Name" which is used in place of God's name, JHWH.

# It Only Takes One

Bubba Garner

Lars Porsena, King of the Etruscans, went to war with Rome during the 6th Century b.c. He surrounded and besieged the city, allowing no food or provisions to enter. When the Romans reached the point of famine, a young man volunteered to sneak into the Etruscan camp and kill the king. His name was Gaius Mucius.

Mucius was soon captured behind enemy lines and brought before the king. In an attempt at intimidation, the king vowed to torture the young Roman until he revealed the location of his rebel band. Without flinching, Mucius plunged his right hand into a flame of fire from a nearby altar. As his hand was consumed, he just stared at the king.

Porsena was so impressed by his display of courage, he allowed Mucius to return to Rome. Once home, the young hero sent word to the king that there were 300 more youths just like him who would not rest until Porsena was dead. Wisely, the king sought terms for peace. From the valor of one, many were saved.

We've been hearing a lot the last few months about how "every vote counts," that we shouldn't underestimate the value of one vote cast for the right candidate. But the same principle is true as it relates to the army of God. Every soldier is important. Every Christian counts.

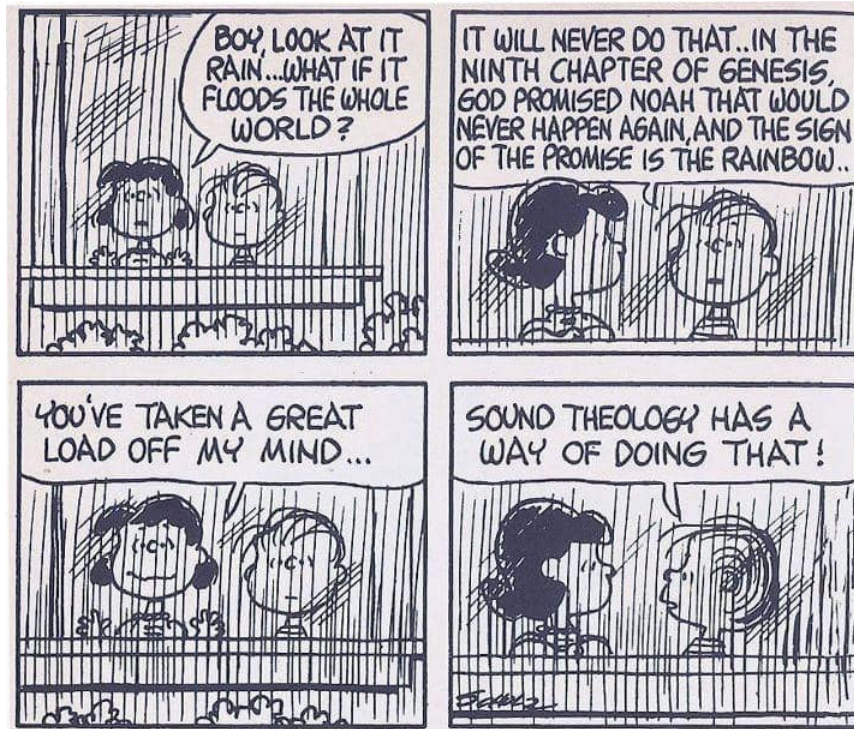
Yet, people seem to think, "I'm just one person; how can I make a difference?" The truth is, one person can do a lot. One person standing up for what they believe in can influence an entire room of people. One person doing right can turn a whole family around.

One person serving the Lord can capture the attention of heaven, regardless of who else is paying attention.

That means you are important. You have value. You can make a difference. Because even when no one else is with you, you are not alone.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you the best part of the story. As you can imagine, Gaius Mucius' life was never the same. He received a hero's welcome. He was awarded land and other treasures. They even changed his name to Scaevola, which translated means "left-handed."

I guess you could say he left his mark. We all have it in us to do the same.



"Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart." (Prov 3:3)

