

October 20, 2024

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: I Corinthians

Young Adult Class (room 12)

“Acts, Sharing Our Faith”

Room 13/14: “Encounters with Jesus”

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

“Your Impact & Influence on Others”

Philippians 2:1-5

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

Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)

Additional Classes

High School Class, 5 PM on Sundays @ 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.

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 7 PM @ Building

Same classes as Sunday at 9:30

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.

“Try and Sell That!”

When I first saw this meme I was thinking, “wow, John MacArthur gets it! Even if I disagree with much of his theology, at least he has a proper view of what a service of worship should look like.” In the original quote, after “try and sell that,” he adds: “See how many come back next Sunday.”

So, I ventured over to the website of the Grace Community Church where John preaches. I found several photos of their “services.” The photos featured preachers, of course, but also all kinds of music: a huge choir, a small band (with guitars and such) and both a small and larger orchestra (with violins, etc.). I also noticed the lighting was anything but normal (see photo).

So my question for Mr. MacArthur is a simple one: *has the world infected the Grace Community Church?* Or have they decided that they can’t “sell that” so they’ve accepted allowing the world to infect the church? (I plan to respectfully ask this question of Dr. MacArthur; I’ll let you know if he responds, assuming I can contact him personally).

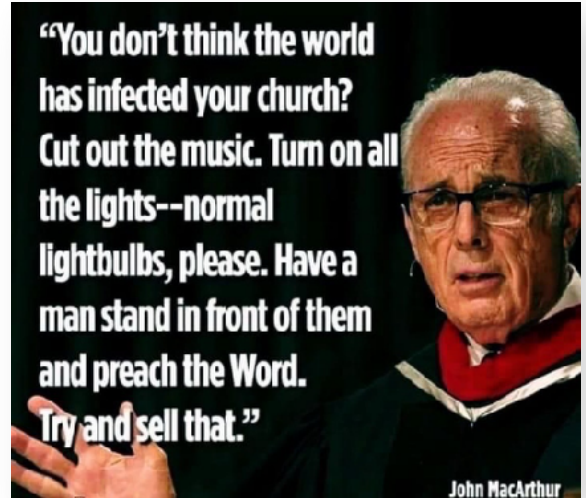
I agree with the premise in the meme. When we resort to entertainment and mood lighting to keep people coming back, then the world has infected the church — no matter how accurately the preacher preaches God’s word. While MacArthur preaches the truth on some things, I have several areas of disagreement on others but my focus here is on his own words.

In a critique of “lights and music,” he said, “if you induce people in lights and music and the right kind of emotional experience musically and then tell them they’re feeling the presence of God, they’ll believe they are feeling the presence of God.” He also said that when you add the music, lights and staging the the service is “indistinguishable from a concerts and stage plays.”

So, I’m confused. I’ll see if he answers my questions about this. In the meantime, we’ll continue to be a church that cuts out the music, turns on the lights with normal lightbulbs and have a man stand in front of us and preach the world. We’re not interested in trying to “sell” that; we do it because that’s what the word of God says to do.

Notice just a few of God’s words on the matter (see box to the right).

DP



“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

“...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” Ephesians 5:19

“But all things should be done decently and in order.” I Corinthians 14:40

This is not good...

According to Barna Group (a research firm that majors in religion) “pornography is now more readily available and consumed by a larger audience than ever before. And, while pornography use is more prevalent among men and non-Christians, a significant proportion of women and Christians also view pornography.” Additionally, the group found that the large majority of churches are not equipped to deal with this problem although many churchgoers wish churches would address this problem. If this is something you are struggling with, please talk to the elders or an elder. We will do our best to get you some help.

Influence

BY MARK W. WHITE

WHEN IT COMES TO THE PROBLEM OF INFLUENCE, MANY DISCIPLES ARE SUFFERING FROM A TREMENDOUS INFERIORITY COMPLEX. Not many of us have ever come to terms with just how much influence we really wield in this world. Our thinking is that unless one has wealth, political clout, physical beauty, or belongs to the “right” group, that he will have little impact on the world about him. If “making a difference” depends on this worldly criteria, then it is doubtful that the lives of most Christians I know will ever make any difference — at all. And that is just the point — our influence in the world is not dependent on such earthly standards.

If we ever have any kind of influence on the world around us, it must be the kind Jesus wants His disciples to exert! Jesus tells us that we must make a difference! A portion of the sermon on the mount illustrates the influence Christ expects us to have on this spiritually dark and tasteless world. Matthew 5:13-16 states, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” This is the Lord’s classic text on the influence of kingdom citizens.

When Jesus said this, those hearing the sermon could have immediately made the connection between the illustration and the lesson to be learned. The Greeks called salt “divine.” The Romans had a saying that went, “There is nothing more useful than sun and salt.” Likening the influence of His disciples to salt was a particularly impressive idea to the minds of those present when Jesus preached that sermon. Salt possesses three peculiar abilities. It is a purifier, and if the Christian is to be the “*salt of the earth*” he must remain pure and unadulterated. He cannot lose his “*savor*” (saltiness) through contamination by the impurities of the world. If he does, he loses his ability to make a difference. Salt also preserves. As a boy, I appreciated the preservative ability of salt when we salted down the hams in our “salt box” which eventually yielded that southern delicacy known as “country” ham. Without

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the salt, the meat decayed and putrefied because the preservative influence was absent. Salt prevents corruption, and as William Barclay puts it, “If the Christian is to be the salt of the earth, he must have a certain antiseptic influence on life.” Finally, salt changes what it touches. Nothing tastes the same when salt is added. It can enhance the flavor, or destroy it, depending on how it is used. Did you ever try and eat popcorn without salt? It’s about like eating cardboard! If you add a little salt, it makes a lot of difference. The influence of the Christian should always be felt. If the Christian loses his flavor, he has become useless. We are meant to be

the salt of the earth and if we do not purify, preserve, and change we do not make a difference. And then there is light. Jesus describes himself as the “*light of the world*” in John 9:5. The text actually says that as long as Jesus was in the world he was the light of the world. Who could deny the illuminating influence Jesus has on

the world? Is it not a great compliment then, for the disciples to be called the “*light of the world*”? Paul wrote the Philippian church and called on them to “*shine as lights in the world*” (Phil. 2:15). We are lights and wherever there is light, there is hope! The primary function of a light is to be seen — to make a difference! Our light should shine, not to call attention to ourselves, but to bring glory to our heavenly Father. Our lights should dispel the darkness so that men can see God. Christianity must be a visible commitment. It was never intended to be a secretive thing. Our lights must shine brightly through the fog of sin to bring men to Jesus. Our lights must make the way clear. At our house, in each bedroom, we use a little “night light.” What a tremendous difference their influences make in the middle of the night when you have to get out of bed for some reason. And, I can’t tell you just how many monsters have been chased away because of the influence of those tiny little lights. Light is a remarkably comforting property.

“*Do I really make a difference?*” Jesus says, “You must!” The world just has to be a better place because of the disciples of Christ. My neighborhood has to be a better place to live because I live there. The plant or office I work in must feel my good influence. The church of which I am a part simply must be a better congregation because of my life. May we all live so as to have it said of us when we die: “It was easier to be good when he/she was with us.”