

October 27 2024

The View

“Sir, 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 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 : Zac Brown

Sermon: “Holding On”

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– TBA

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

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.

What Is Man?

Man has always tried to explain himself. Oddly, he has tried to make that explanation a scientific one rather than a spiritual one. He refuses to hear what God says, choosing rather to invent fancy scientific reasons for man's being here. His is a futile exercise, doomed to failure. Only God knows man for what he really is.

Man is the most different of all God's creatures. He is born with faculties for language, his means of communication between himself and God and between himself and his fellows. He is born with a sense that some things are right and some are wrong. He is possessed with a sense of ought, feeling guilty when he does wrong and feeling exonerated when he does what is right. In other words, he has a moral sense. Furthermore, man has an aesthetic nature, recognizing beautiful things with the eye and sensing special feelings for music, art, sculptor, photography and the like. Scientists can't explain any of these things.

Scientists can't explain life. They don't know when a man begins to live. They are at a loss to explain procreation, one of the most common occurrences in man's life. They can't put life in a test tube, subject it to certain chemicals and examine its components. They can't look at it under a microscope or find its molecular structures. And what about death? Man can't explain it. The corpse weighs the same, is the same height, has the same chemicals, is made up of the same things as it was just a few minutes before it died. What man can explain what happened? What went out of the man? It didn't weigh anything, it had no substance, no chemical reality. What was it? What happened when life left him? What is life anyhow?

God explains man. Not in scientific terms, but in spiritual terms. He is the highest of God's creatures, the most significant thing about His creation. Man was created for the purpose of glorifying God. Not until He had created the heavens and the earth, all the various environs for man, did He create the man. He then placed him in his environment to tend to the earth and subdue it.

When Solomon was given a wisdom above all that were before him it made him a fit person to see what life had to offer, to investigate "life under the sun." He did it with gusto. He did it fully, holding back nothing. "Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure," he said. He filled his life with wealth, pleasure, beauty, agriculture, politics, travel, acquisitions of all sorts, experiments of all kinds. When he had tried it all—and I mean all—he said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be bad" (Eccles. 12:13-14). C'est la vie, that's life.

What is man? Man is three things.

Man is an agent. He is empowered to act. Man is not an automaton. He has a mind, he can distinguish, think, reason, decide (Josh. 24:10). He is, in a very real sense, autonomous, self governing. He can do what he wants to do.

Man is a free agent. Man is not forced to do anything. He can choose. God will not impose His will on man, but He does hold man responsible for his choices, having given him a full revelation of what is right and wrong (2 Tim. 3:16-17). He will "bring every work into judgment."

Man is a moral agent. That is, he is possessed of moral equipment that imposes on him right decisions. First of all, he is fitted to understand what is good and what is evil, what is moral and what is immoral. He can be good or he can be bad (2 Cor. 7:9 -11). He understands that he must do as best as he can what is right and eliminate from his life what is wrong.

Man is not just empowered to act, not just free to choose, but he is

free to deliberately choose what is right; in doing so, he glorifies God. And, after all, isn't that his real purpose in life?

Anybody can glorify God. Do right and you will.

Dee Bowman

Why Does God Allow Bad People To Get Away With Sin?

By Max Dawson

Today's title expresses something that a lot folks think about. Whether they actually say it aloud or not, lots of folks think this is what is happening all around us. People are upset by the wickedness and corruption found in the lives of so many. But, is the premise true? Is God actually allowing bad people to get away with sin? That seems to be the question that a man named Asaph had in Psalm 73.

In the opening verses of that psalm (Psalm 73:1-9), Asaph complained that the wicked were filled with pride and violence; they speak against other people—even against God—and seem to get away with it. They don't seem to have the troubles that plague other men. They have lots of money and good health. Asaph was so upset over this kind of injustice that he actually began to be jealous of these men. Perhaps it would be better in life to be corrupt than to be righteous!

Asaph looked at his own spirituality and it seemed pointless (Psalm 73:10-16). He was righteous, but there was no benefit in his righteousness. Why did he hurt and experience such hardship while the wicked man had a life of ease? He said, "When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me" (Psalm 73:16).

Have you ever had thoughts like those of Asaph? Why do the wicked prosper? Why do so many bad things happen to good people? Why is life sometimes so unfair?

If you have had those questions in your mind, you are not alone. Everyone has had those thoughts at one time or another. What is the answer?

Is life—our very existence—ultimately unfair and unjust? It is not. Read on.

THE FINAL WORD

We are grateful that Asaph did not end his psalm at that. He had more to say. He wrote, "It was too painful for me... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation as in a moment!"

It was "their end" that helped Asaph see the truth of the matter. When he consulted God, he realized that the day-to-day life of the wicked man was not the whole story. This wicked man would have to face the judgment of God. Destruction and desolation was his end. That is what the wicked must face.

There is coming a day in which all injustice will be dealt with! Do not envy the wicked because of their prosperity. Be faithful to God. Acknowledge Him and His way. Trust that he will bring vengeance upon the wicked and vindicate the righteous.

Blessings to you, my faithful friends,
—Max

—Blog from Dowlen Road church of Christ—

The Healing Power of Forgiveness

The ability to forgive others can serve as a healthy catharsis for the soul. Many an individual's physical well-being has been greatly impaired due to the lack of this gracious virtue; for hate and an unforgiving spirit can lead to numerous physical maladies.

There seems to be more of a concern manifested these days about health in general, but often one overlooks the importance of possessing the proper attitude towards life which also plays a major role in one's physical condition. Poor mental health can lead to a wide variety of physical ailments that have been psychosomatically induced. Perhaps ulcers would be a classic example of this. The one who feels all "tied up in knots" over some grudge because of an injustice heartlessly inflicted is aware of the mind's influence over the body.

How much better it is for one to be set free from all entanglements of a bitter or begrudging spirit. Jesus emphasized the need to forgive others in Matthew 6:15 and shows it to be a prerequisite towards our own salvation. Here He states: "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." We often speak about the necessary steps that lead to redemption, but how often do we include the need to forgive others as being one of the requirements? It was certainly a condition stipulated by God Himself.

How can we who are Christians not forgive others, especially in view of all which God has forgiven us? This, indeed, should be the basis for our own merciful disposition towards those who have treated us wrongfully. Paul conveyed this very thought in Ephesians 4:32 by stating, "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you."

The story has been told about a man whose health was good. He was sturdy and strong; his heart functioned well, and his blood pressure was at a good level. Then his father died, and he got into a long legal dispute with his sister about their father's will. The case went to court, and the sister won. From that time forward, the man became obsessed with the lawsuit and his sister. His animosity towards her continued to grow each day. Soon he began having trouble with his heart and his blood pressure. Next his kidneys started bothering him; and, within just a few short months, he died due to a multiplicity of complications. The doctor, in commenting on his case, said, "It seems obvious that he died from bodily injuries wrought by powerful emotion." It appears that this man killed himself with ill-will --literally committed suicide.

God's word can teach us each to forgive. It will also show us many reasons why we should. Let us turn to His word today and allow the truth to set us free.

Tom Edwards

Looking Back

Jesus turned the minds of his audience back to a familiar account when He said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). Isn't it interesting that He didn't have to say, "Remember Lot's wife... you know, the one who became a pillar of salt." They knew her story. They may not have even known her name, but they knew her lot in life. Yet, they continued to turn back from God. In reflecting on this story, perhaps Jesus wanted the people to remember these lessons.

God does not ask you to do the impossible. There was nothing difficult about what He commanded Lot and his family to do. "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you," was His message through the angel (Gen. 19:17). That was clear, simple, and straightforward, without any room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation. He didn't require them to do something they were incapable of doing. That's because His commandments do not create burdens, they relieve them. The burden is on us to prove otherwise.

God does not give partial credit. Lot's wife almost got it right. She escaped for her life, she left the city, she fled to the mountains. So far, so good. But she looked back and became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). With God, there is no such thing as partial obedience. To obey in part is to disobey. You can't pick and choose parts of His law that you want to follow and discard the rest. Do it all or you have done nothing at all.

God does assess punishment on those who disobey. She became a pillar. This woman became a testimony to all generations of what happens when you don't follow the commandments of the Lord. "It is our business to see that we do right. God will see that we come out right" (Donald Barnhouse). In due season, that is.

Remember Lot's wife. It's a story worth looking back at over and over again.

Bubba Garner



Read your Bible