

November 10, 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: Ecclesiastes

Young Adult Class (room 12)

“Acts, Sharing Our Faith”

Room 13/14: “Relationships”

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

“What is ‘Christianity?’”

Acts 11:19-26

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.

Chronic Illness and the Christian

BY

SHARON JONES

Many of you know that I am a dialysis patient and have been for the last 24 years come November 2024. It started with a Lupus diagnosis, (SLE)

I have had many questions asked as to how does it feel, how many times do you go, don't you get tired?

I don't mind the numerous questions I get from time to time. I hope that with my responses it helps someone along the way with my answers.

Being on dialysis treatment is a way of life for me. I go four times a week; it's purpose is to keep all the impurities out of my system as I have no other way to void, (like urinating).

I've always wanted to be graceful with my illness and possibly be an example to others like some of our Biblical characters like Job who suffered with boils and other skin conditions, (Job 2:7-8). There are many more who had chronic illness yet continued to be faithful to God, and as so many before me. I have gained so much strength and maturity within these last 24 years.

I feel I am a stronger woman and more spiritually minded and I'm growing each day as I go on with my daily life which sometimes can be brutal. However, it is a part of my daily routine. For example, a typical day starts at 3AM in preparation for treatment. I arrive at the clinic at 4:30AM and on the machine by 5:00AM. This process takes about 3 hours, 4 times a week. With Wednesday, Friday and Sundays are my off days. I like to make it fun by having coffee dates or breakfast dates right after treatment. Some days I need to get home and rest right after treatment.

Prior to becoming a kidney patient, I was on the wait list for more than 11 years, then September 14, 2009, I "got the call" for a transplant. During that time, there was lots of excitement. I got the transplant and for the next 3 years I was very ill, as the kidney was rejecting the entire 3 years until the transplanted kidney had to be removed in February of 2012. So here I am today with no regrets and very grateful that God has given the medical field this knowledge to keep myself and many others alive.

And knowing my faith in God has gotten me through these last 24 years. I really never thought I would be alive. But my faith, your encouragement, my church family, family, and ex co-workers, have made this all possible.

During my research for this note to you, I found so many references in the Bible I'd like to share with you. And these examples have all dealt with some form of chronic illness and have done so never losing faith in God.

Psalms 6 refers to David's infirmity. Mark 5:25-34 the woman who dealt with bleeding issues for 12 years.

There are many, many other examples in the Bible but the only example I truly try to follow is God's example by being a light to others and, hopefully, I can be an encouragement to you.

"And knowing my faith in God has gotten me through these last 24 years. I really never thought I would be alive. But my faith, your encouragement, my church family, family, and ex-co-workers, have made this all possible."

“Spiritual,” “Religious” & “Moral”

AS PEOPLE IN OUR WORLD MOVE AWAY FROM AFFILIATION WITH “ORGANIZED RELIGION”, I.E., “CHURCH MEMBERSHIP”, many are trying to simply be spiritual without being religious. Perhaps disenchantment with churches of our time is leading them to this approach to spirituality. Hypocrisy, lack of spiritual focus, and Madison Avenue style religious hype has sickened many people who have come to believe you can be spiritual without being “churchy”.

“God never intended to separate morals from spirituality. Paul taught that the *“works of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:19-21) are all contrary to true spiritual development.”

Others today speak of their great spirituality while they live flagrantly immoral lives. It is incredible so many people have an interest in “spirituality” and claim to be devoted to prayer, meditation, and a search for God while ignoring His word and the standards for living the Bible teaches.

For example, it is not uncommon for some female singer on television to sing a “gospel song” quite beautifully and thoughtfully while wearing a dress exposing the upper half of her ample breasts. Or, a celebrity dies and his live-in girlfriend speaks to the press about how her now dead immoral lover is “in a better place.” Do we see the obvious disconnect here between spirituality and morality? God never intended to separate morals

from spirituality. Paul taught that the *“works of the flesh”* (Gal. 5:19-21) are all contrary to true spiritual development.

Biblical spirituality is obtained by *“walk(ing) in the Spirit”* (Gal. 5:16) and by being *“led by the Spirit of God”* (Rom. 8:14). The Holy Spirit’s word does not lead us into impurity, sensuality, and immorality. He leads us away from drunkenness, unmarried sexual relations, envy, bitterness, and lewdness. If we are spiritual, we will see the *“fruit of the Spirit”* growing in our lives (*“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness,*

goodness, faithfulness, self-control” — Galatians 5:22). It is impossible to simultaneously be both spiritual and immoral.

Real spirituality comes when we recognize Jesus as the true and living way (Jn. 14:6). *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”* (James 1:27). Note that **there is** a *“pure and undefiled religion.”* Those who are saved are added to His church (Acts 2:47). This runs counter to man-made spirituality and shows we must be spiritual, religious, and moral to please God.

— MARK W. WHITE

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

...as yourself is part of the great commandment. The other way to say it is, “Love yourself as your neighbor.” Love yourself not in some egocentric, self-serving sense but love yourself the way you would love your friend in the sense of taking care of yourself, nourishing yourself, trying to understand, comfort, strengthen yourself. Preachers and elders in particular, people in the caring professions in general, are famous for neglecting their selves with the result that they are apt to become in their own way as helpless and crippled as the people they are trying to care for and thus no longer selves who can be of much use to anybody.

If your daughter is struggling for life in a raging torrent, you do not save her by jumping into the torrent with her, which leads only to your both drowning together. Instead you keep your feet on the dry bank — you maintain as best you can your own inner peace, the best and strongest of who you are — and from that solid ground reach out a rescuing hand.

“Mind your own business” means butt out of other people’s lives because in the long run they must live their lives for themselves, but it also means pay mind to your own life, your own health and wholeness, both for your own sake and ultimately for the sake of those you love too. Take care of yourself so you can take care of them. A bleeding heart is of no help to anybody if it bleeds to death.

Fred Buechner