

December 15, 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.

***We do not solicit donations from visitors. Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when it is passed. 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

*“Authenticity”*

*Psalm 26*

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

### Sunday Afternoon and Evening Bible Classes @ the Building

*1:30 PM, Genesis (see Grant Mulligan)*

*5 PM, 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](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com)) or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

**There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members.**

**Check with David Posey, Len Baker or one of the elders.**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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.

# Losing an Entire Generation

BY MARK WHITE

ONE DAY NOT LONG FROM NOW, WE ARE GOING TO WAKE UP AND DISCOVER JUST HOW VALUABLE “THEY” HAVE BEEN, AND THE IMPACT THEY HAD ON OUR LIVES AND THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE. But by then, they may all be gone! Recent years have seen the passing of an important generation of brothers and sisters in Christ. Among them have been some of the finest gospel preachers, elders, deacons and saints in our storied history.

Of course, that is the way life is. We are not surprised at the passing of a generation, for time does not stand still. But there is something unique about this generation preceding my own. This generation, the “silent” generation as sociologists describe it, is special, indeed. Tom Brokaw popularized the phrase “*the greatest generation*” to describe those in this age bracket.

They exhibited qualities their children, “*baby-boomers*,” may not possess. Certainly, we see some traits of the “silent generation” totally lacking in the “millennial” and “Gen Z” populations. These qualities are vanishing before our eyes even if we don’t have the good sense presently to realize it.

Many churches of Christ in our land were once mostly composed of a generation who saw a Great Depression in their youth. They lived through a tragic world war. This generation survived the threat of ravaging diseases, nuclear holocaust, and financial doom. They witnessed the greatest development of technology and scientific advances in medicine and communication in all of human history. They also witnessed a world turning from God to gold, to pleasure, and self-destruction.

Oh yes, this generation made mistakes, but it seems to me they learned better from them. This generation was characterized by hard work. Few people in my generation ever worked as hard as they. We work hard, but not like they worked! Cotton fields, coal mines, foundries, railroad yards, factories, and farms were their common hard work places. The work ethic of the silent generation was about survival, necessity, determination, and character. They knew about loyalty. A land of bountiful production resulted from that trait.

Already, churches are changing with the loss of this generation and the babies born to them. Will their commitment to the Lord, their fidelity to the truth, their willingness to sacrifice survive in their offspring? “Boomers” are beginning to die away too, being succeeded by “Generation X,” then “Gen Y,” or “millennials,” the largest living adult population in the United States. Generations Z and Alpha are in the wings. “Beta” babies are now being born. Will they demand

more rights and privileges while offering less work and commitment in exchange? If so, what will be the future of the church?

“Silent generation” Christians were largely self-taught, or they learned God’s word at the feet of self-taught preachers. They studied the Bible for themselves, abandoned religious error, and served God faithfully. They taught their families, friends, and fellow workers the truth they had learned. They taught their Bible classes after plowing fields, mending fences, or washing and ironing all day. They did this without the aid of modern appliances and without the benefits of the technology available to students today. They warned against the danger of drifting back into “the world” from which they had escaped through Christ, and they resolved not to allow the church to be led into apostasy. As elders, they pastored their flocks, and as

deacons they rolled up their sleeves and served. They built congregations. As mothers and wives, they lovingly cared for their families, often in the shadow of hardship and a poverty that would destroy many people in succeeding were willing to do God’s will. *We cannot afford to have that attitude pass*

*away with them!* We had better be working to ensure that these qualities do not die with those generations. They wanted to be God’s people. Individually and collectively, as the church, we need these qualities now as much as ever. Hard work, study, courage, humility, persistence, selflessness, generosity, and service. With these traits, we can overcome any of Satan’s darts. Without them, we are not truly the Lord’s people.

We must never forget our spiritual forebears. Hebrews 13:7-9 commands, “*Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings...*” The younger generation must learn from the older. Jesus Christ is the same for both. Strange doctrines always threaten. What did our fathers do when challenged by them? Their reactions and responses to problems and issues may well be the answer for us, also.

To say “thanks” to the generations we are losing is not enough. And yet we owe them at least that much. They do not ask for our accolades, but they do hope for our future faithfulness to the Lord. May we offer our deepest appreciation and adoring affection to spiritual fathers and mothers who taught us how to survive and thrive and overcome as Christians. Where, oh where, would we have been without them?

— MARK W. WHITE

# The Beauty of Aging

BY DAVID POSEY

We talk a lot about our kids and helping them “own their own faith” and for good reason. The church here has been blessed with many children over the years. At one point, we had 130 children in attendance, from newborns to high school age. We put a lot of emphasis on doing whatever we can to help them grow to be faithful Christians. We use catch phrases like “God has no grandchildren” to encourage parents and the church to take seriously the task of helping them learn the gospel of Christ. Now and then we quote I Timothy 4:12, Paul’s instruction to a young Timothy, “let no one despise your youth.” Those newborns have grown up and most are living faithful lives; we thank God for that.

Sometimes our efforts to “save our kids” has an unintended result – we forget how many wonderful older people we have had here over the years. Some have gone on to their reward but not without leaving an indelible mark on us due to their solid faith in Christ. We appreciate all of our older folks, those who are with us and those who have passed on. Paul said “my desire is to depart and be with Christ for that is far better” (Philippians 1:23). We are convinced that many of our former members are experiencing what Paul desired.

Meanwhile, many of us are dealing with ups and downs of aging. Ecclesiastes 12 is painful to read. That text itemizes the things that go wrong with the body as we age. The hearing gets worse, yet somehow we wake up at the first chirping of one bird. There are a host of things that come with aging that make life more difficult.

However, while no one will say it’s “fun” to get older, aging Christians embrace the process. After all, each day means we are “another day closer to paradise.” And, what are the *alternatives* to accepting that we are getting older? I can think of three: *dying*, *denying* and *lying*. For a faithful older saint, *dying* is OK (“far better”) – except for those left behind. Some try to *deny* or ignore it and some go so far as dressing and talking like a younger person, which only makes them look silly. *Lying* about your age makes you a liar just as much as lying about anything else and “all liars have their place in the lake of fire” (Rev. 21:8)

I appreciate older people who are accepting the aging process with grace. It’s refreshing. The Bible speaks of aging as a good thing. Proverbs 16:31 says, “*Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life*” and Proverbs 20:29 says, “*The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.*”

Ever notice that businesses brag about when they were established? The assumption is “the older the better.” The famous handbag company, Coach, proudly displays the date they were established on their sign: “Est. 1941.” And I saw an ad the other day that displayed a start

date in the 1800s. Why do they do that? Because age means experience, steadfastness, and dependability.

Psalms 92, talking about those who are righteous says, “they still bear fruit in old age...” (v. 14). Older saints are a valuable resource in a church. Their experience is priceless. Wise leaders will tap that experience often before making decisions. Instead of casting them off, we should embrace them and utilize them. That’s good for them and the church.

That verse also says that they are “ever full of sap and green.” OK, so we’ve known a lot of “saps,” both young and old. Some men grow old and silly as they lose their inhibitions. But the psalmist is using the word “sap,” to mean that the older person is still productive and fruitful even though his physical capacities have diminished. He is still “green” in his mind and in his desire to serve the Lord.

So “old” doesn’t have to mean “washed up” and an older person is not, just because of age, a “has-been.” Their faithfulness in attendance and encouraging others and doing whatever their physical ability allows them to do is a tremendous source of encouragement to others.

When Christie and I began our work at Huntington Beach, we immediately noticed that the building was in need of repair. There was a huge hole in the wall right above the pulpit area and when I pointed that out to a couple of the men they said, “oh, yeah, I hadn’t noticed that.” There was dark paneling on the walls, the carpet was dingy and several other items needed repair. The church had some money in the bank, so there was unanimous agreement to restore and refresh the building. The thing I remember most about that, though, was 70+ year old Helen McMasters showing up every day for several hours to pitch in. I had known her when I was a young man. She was a delightful lady who did what she could to help.

More importantly, older Christians should be a rich source of wisdom, especially as we study together in Bible classes. Some older Christians quit studying for classes and rely on “old knowledge” – perhaps written years ago in the margins of his or her Bible. But if an older man or woman is still humbly examining Scripture and seeking to better themselves in light of it, the comments he or she makes in class will not only reflect that study but will be that much deeper because of the life experience they bring to it. That combination of knowledge and experience is priceless and they are a great example to the young.

I know I Tim. 4:12 says “Let no one despise your youth...” but today, we can safely say, too, “let no one despise your age.”

“Sometimes our efforts to ‘save our kids’ has an unintended result – we forget how many wonderful older people we have had here over the years.”