

# view

July 31, 2005

## This Week's Agenda

July 31, 2005

### The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: David Posey

5pm Sermon: David Posey

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Mark – Grant Mulligan, Dan Singleton
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: 7 Churches of Asia – David Posey, Jr., Jeff Clark

### Wednesday

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Mark – Grant Mulligan, Dan Singleton
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: (Young Adults) Divorce & Remarriage – David Posey, Sr.

## News and Prayer Needs

### Prayer Concerns

**News and Updates:** Sharron Wade's mother was informed that she has cancer and is undergoing treatment; Pamela Ludlow is having surgery on her shoulder on Tuesday; Charles Davis' mother's back was broken in two places in freak accident a couple of weeks ago; Wes Shamblin's grandfather, Bill Shamblin passed away last week. Please pray for all of these as they deal with these difficult times.

Continue prayers for Carly Cain; Janelle Thorp; Don Hopper; Boots Royston; Wes Shamblin's grandmother; Tim Dickey; Sharon Jones; Becky Woolpert; Cathy & Hank Wilson; Jamie Cole. Those who are fighting cancer: Larry Thompson; Brady Rembleski's grandfather; Justin Ivie's dad (cancer); Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland; Margaret Everett; Cheryl Wilson (in semi-remission); Laurie Ann Reagan; Oliver Sasse (received good news on his latest test).

Continue prayers for all the new children born recently and for the remaining expectant moms: Janelle Thorp, Amber Karlsson, Carly Posey; Carrie Sadowy; Dani Rembleski (!!).

### Out of Town

Sharron Wade is in San Diego with her mother, who is facing radiation and chemo (see above).

## Bible Reading

Sunday – Reflection

Monday – I Cor. 12-14; Psalm 95

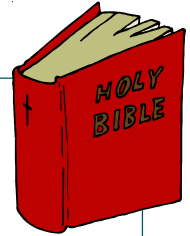
Tuesday – I Cor. 15-16; Psalm 96

Wednesday – 2 Chron. 1-4; Psalm 97

Thursday – 2 Chron. 5-7; Psalm 98

Friday – 2 Chron. 8-11; Psalm 99

Saturday – 2 Chron. 12-15; Psalm 100



### Christians Serving in Iraq

Jeremy Allen, Philip Cain, Steve Reis, Titus Cain. Keep these good men in your prayers each day.

### Other Involvement Opportunities

A "Ladies Workshop" meets every other month to explore ways to help others. Please see Denise Westphal for information.

### Group Meetings

Group number 12 will meet tonight after evening services. See Doug Wells for information.

### VBS Tomorrow!

Classes begin tomorrow and each day through Friday from 10 AM to Noon. There are classes for those 2 years old through 6th grade for the children in our congregation, and for visitors, we will have classes for Kindergarten through 6th. If you have any questions, see David Posey, David Byrd or Chandra Brown. If you want the answer right away, just go directly to Chandra!

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church's work and the elders' oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize those activities that provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body.

Editor

# The Church Belongs to Christ

Jesus spoke of the indestructible foundation of the church when he said, “Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Mt. 16:18). The church of our Lord does not belong to helpless mortals. It belongs to Christ. He planned it. He established it. He “loved the church and gave himself up for it” (Eph. 5:25). He purchased it “with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Consequently, he “is the head of the church, he himself being the Savior of the body” (Eph. 5:23).

To become a member of Christ’s church in the New Testament period, a person had to “obey the gospel” (1 Pet. 1:2; 4:17). Convinced of his sinful condition and the saving power of Jesus’ death on the cross, a potential convert was told to act on his faith by repenting and being baptized in the name of Christ “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). The apostles and other first-century preachers of the gospel were very adamant on these points, as illustrated in the appeal to Saul of Tarsus: “And now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). When a person thus obeyed the gospel, he was “baptized into one body” (1 Cor. 12:13). Consequently, “the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

The first members of the church “were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). The apostles taught the first generation of Christians to come together “every first day of the week” to contribute to God-ordained needs (1 Cor.

16:2) and to “break bread” in memory of Christ (Acts 20:7). The “first day of the week” was significant to them. They not only partook of the “Lord’s Supper” on that day, but the day itself became known as the “Lord’s day” (Rev. 1:10). The collective assembly of early Christians also consisted of listening to a sermon, which was sometimes known as a “word of exhortation” (Heb. 13:22; cf. Acts 13:15). Men in congregations would offer up public prayers (1 Tim. 2:8).

The musical praise consisted of “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Eph. 5:19).

Early members of the church were taught to love one another. They were commanded to “admonish the unruly, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, and be patient with all men” (1 Thess. 5:14). Their initial obedience to the gospel was just the beginning of a life of service to the Lord and to other Christians in the local

community. The writer of Hebrews emphasizes this mutual commitment to the cause of Christ: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (10:23-25).

Some modern students of the Bible have denied that the local churches of the New Testament had any formal organization or appointed leadership, and there is no uniform pattern for such arrangements. If not, then every modern congregation with any organized structure or formally appointed leaders would

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usurp authority that belongs only to Christ, the head of the universal church. Actually, the Bible does contain a consistent pattern to follow. The form of church organization in the New Testament is congregational, and elders were appointed “in every church” (Acts 14:23). The jurisdiction of these overseers was limited strictly to the local group (Acts 20:17,28; Tit. 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:2; James 5:14). This arrangement was not incidental, and it carried the full weight of apostolic authority. Even the qualifications of the men who would serve as elders are enumerated in Scripture, “that you might know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:1-14,15).

Another fact is worth noting at this point. Centuries before the existence of any church denomination, members of Christ’s church were united. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6). Christians in the first century were bound together by these truths which they commonly accepted. They considered themselves of the same faith, and in the same body, the Lord’s church (Eph. 1:20-23). There was no denominational bureaucracy or human creedbook needed to give them a common identity. They strove together for the “unity of the faith” (Eph. 4:13). The “one Lord” they served and the “one faith” they held were the glue that bound them together with a common hope (Eph. 4:4-6,13,15; Jude 3). They were united in Christ and the gospel, not in the partisan loyalty of a human agenda.

Interestingly enough, they were able to become faithful members of Christ’s church over five centuries before there was a universal pope and almost fifteen centuries before the first Protestant church began. Do you understand the significance of this? It means that none of the religious denominations that have developed since the first century are a part of God’s plan. They are unnecessary, unauthorized, and irrelevant. Their competing agendas and conflicting

doctrines have no place in genuine Christianity. Christ is the only head of the church, and the church “is subject to Christ” (Eph. 5:23-25). Any church group that does not submit to the absolute authority of Christ forfeits its right to be considered a New Testament church. On the other hand, a church that adheres to the Biblical pattern is one that truly belongs to Christ, regardless of time, place or culture.

The process of restoring lost men and women to God and embracing his plan wholeheartedly is an exciting venture. The opportunity to be in fellowship with others of like mind, in the church of our Lord, is one of the greatest privileges God has given us.

Mike Wilson

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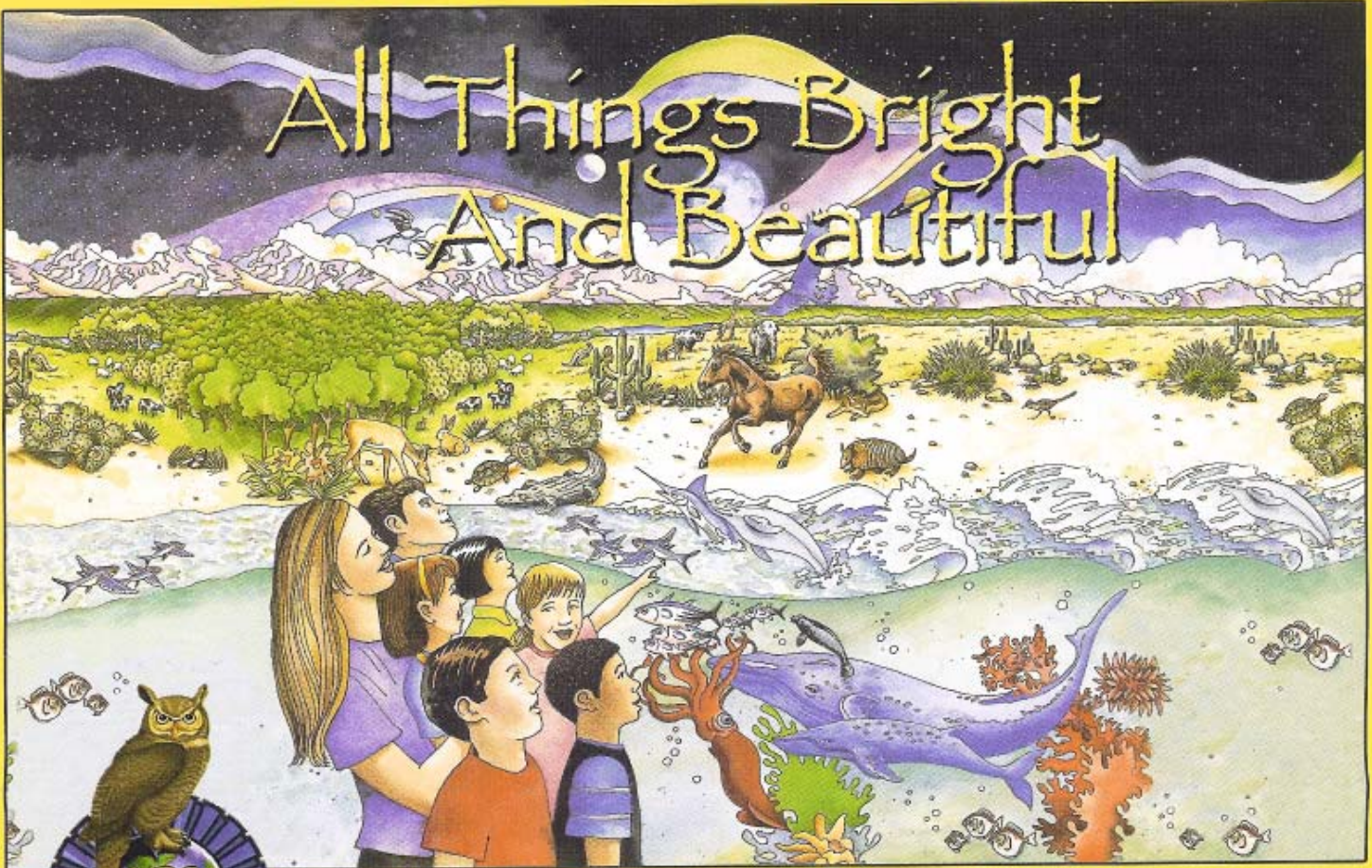
Sunday Morning Assembly  
8:30AM & 10:15AM  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM  
Classes for all ages.  
*Private classes arranged at your  
convenience.*

For more information,  
visit our web site at:

**[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)**

**Begins Monday!!**

# Vacation Bible School



**You're Invited!**



**AUGUST 1-5, 2005**

FROM 10 TO NOON each Day

ALL CHILDREN IN GRADES K-6 ARE WELCOME!

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