

# view

October 16, 2005

This Week's Agenda

October 16, 2005

## The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15 AM: SINGING, PRAYER, LORD'S SUPPER

Sermon: David Posey

5 PM – Singing, Lord's Supper and Sermon

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

### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Jeff Herrin - I & II Thessalonians
- Room 11-12: Divorce & Remarriage - David Posey
- Room 7: Rich Mowrer – Gospel of John (with a look at the Greek)

## News & Prayer Concerns

### News

Ken McClelland lost his long battle with cancer, but won the ultimate victory of a home in heaven. Please pray for his family as they deal with this loss.

Please pray for Dawn Woolington. Her ex-husband is seeking custody of CJ and Matthew.

### Prayers Needed

Continue prayers for Belle Smith (new address: Check with the Elders). Please stop by and see her if you possibly can. Continue to pray for Carly Cain, Nita Sellgren (Sharron Wade's mother), Ben Thorp, Sharon Jones, Duane Lowe, Doris Phillips (Wes Shamblin's grandmother), Becky Woolpert, Kathy & Hank Wilson, Jamie Cole, Monica Fulton (Dave's mother), Brady Rembleski's grandfather, Justin Ivie's father, Tom Royston, Margaret Everett (San Jose), Cheryl Wilson, Laurieann Reagan and Oliver Sasse. Also pray for those who are expecting: Carly Posey, Janelle Thorp, Carrie Sadowy and Angie Cain.

### Out of Town

Becky Woolpert is in Utah visiting Dawn. Ed and Kristen are in Alabama until the 19th. Denise Westphal will be leaving soon for a trip to Greece.

## Wednesday

10 AM - Bible Study, all invited

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

### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dan Singleton - Daniel
- Room 11-12: Evangelism – David Posey, Sr.

## Bible Reading

Sunday – I John 1-3; Isaiah 21

Monday – I John 4-5; Isaiah 22-23

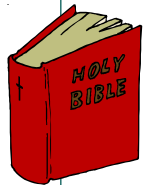
Tuesday – Lamentations 1-3; Isaiah 24

Wednesday – Lamentations 4-5; Isaiah 25-26

Thursday – II & III John; Isaiah 27

Friday – Reflection

Saturday – I Peter 1-3; Isaiah 28-29



### Christians Serving in Iraq

Pray for Jeremy Allen, Philip Cain, Steve Ries, Titus Cain.

### Other Involvement Opportunities

The Ladies Workshop meets every other month. See Denise Westphal.

### Group Meetings

Group meetings continue. Please see the deacon who is in charge of your meeting.

### Calendar

A calendar covering October and November is posted on the last page. Please post it and add other items to it as needed.

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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

# 'Opinions' in Bible Class

By RICK LIGGIN

Are our Bible classes supposed to be times for open discussion where anyone and everyone may state his own "opinion" on what some Bible text or verse of Scripture means? Asked a little differently: are Bible class teachers simply discussion *facilitators* or are they supposed to actually *teach* the class something?

Obviously, teachers are supposed to teach! They are "to give instruction"—since that is what a "teacher" does. And though that may involve engaging his students in some kind of discussion, in the end the teacher is supposed to be leading his class in a definite direction so that real learning takes place. Anyone can stand at the head of a classroom and ask his students for comments—but a teacher must do more than that. He must teach! He must instruct! He must make sure that real learning—learning that is true to the Word—takes place in the minds and hearts of his students.

But not only must he teach; he must do so *with authority*. Paul told Timothy: "These things command and teach" (1 Tim. 4:11). He told Titus: "These things speak...exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you" (Tit. 2:15). A faithful Bible teacher does not hand down his own "opinion" of what the Bible says—an "opinion" that others may take or leave, accept or reject. He teaches the Word of God—an authoritative message that must be accepted and obeyed.

Now, I say these things because I fear that some of us have gotten the wrong idea about our Bible class periods. Some of us seem to think that Bible class is a time for us to all get together and share our "opinions" with one another about some Bible topic or Bible text. But folks, that's not Bible study! It might be one thing if we were sharing with one another the fruit of our own diligent, honest and careful private Bible study. In fact, if that were the case, I'm sure that some real and significant Bible learning would take place in such a class period. But that most often is not the case!

More often than not, these "opinions" we express are not based on any real, personal Bible study; in fact, they're often not even based on having previously read the text before coming to class. More often than not, they are the result of whatever might pop into our heads as we read the text for the first time while already in class. I'll be honest and tell you that, as a Bible class teacher who works hard at preparing to teach Bible classes, I find that insulting. How dare you come to class and challenge a teacher's conclusions by expressing your "opinion" when you haven't even taken the time to read the text before coming to class! We're

not saying that error should not be corrected. If a Bible class teacher teaches something wrong, he should be challenged and corrected—kindly. But how can we do that if we have not studied the text before coming to class?

Bible class is not about sharing "opinions" (especially unstudied opinions) with one another. It's about helping one another learn *correctly* what God's Word says, so

that we can use it to change our lives. And it is the teacher's place to do that—and to do it with authority, so that all feel the need to do what God says. Vision for the future demands that we make our Bible classes periods of real learning—and that requires teachers who are prepared to teach and students who come to class prepared to learn.

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## Giving to the Lord 'As Needed'

By AL DIESTELKAMP

Many Christians struggle with knowing just how much they should give back to the Lord. We might be inclined to think that it would be easier on us if God had prescribed a certain amount or percentage of our income that He expects us to give. Instead, He put us on our honor by instructing that each of us give "as he may prosper" (1 Cor. 16:2).

In this age of great prosperity there are many congregations that receive weekly offerings in excess of their budgetary needs, resulting in ever-increasing treasuries. As this happens, some Christians adjust their giving downward. I have even heard of some who, in moving their membership from one congregation to another, have reduced the amount of their weekly contributions because the need was less.

Granted, if a congregation is not using the treasury to God's glory, there is little incentive to give. Frankly, I'll admit that if I were a member of a congregation which continued to build up an already inflated treasury, I would adjust my giving. I wouldn't *reduce* my giving, but I would adjust *where* I gave it. Of course, first I would try to get the brethren to recognize the need to spread the gospel both locally and in other places.

Congregations large and rich enough to supply their own needs would do well to "lift up your eyes and look at the fields" (Jn. 4:35). There are even small congregations which have managed to pay off their buildings and are blessed to have men who can do the preaching while supporting themselves (may their number increase) who

could, if they would, help to support brethren in more needy places.

There is really no excuse for congregations to "sit on" extremely large treasuries. I understand that the larger a congregation is, and the larger its commitments are, the larger the treasury must be, but I'm afraid that some congregations display a lack of faith in feeling they need a huge treasury "just in case." When a congregation's treasury begins to bulge, some are likely to look for ways to spend the money for more conveniences, or other luxuries, rather than real needs.

But, I digress from my original intent for this article—that of basing one's giving only on need. Though need might motivate some to give "beyond their ability" (2 Cor. 8:3), the fact is that the giving prescribed in the New Testament is to be based on one's prosperity—not on the needs of the congregation. Therefore, giving only "as needed" is not scriptural giving.

However, to the extent that Christians recognize the great need of the gospel throughout the world, this is a moot point. As long as there are people who need salvation, there will be a need for gospel workers who deserve to "live of the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). We're a long way from supplying the need.

Giving is something which should be done "cheerfully" rather than "of necessity" (2 Cor. 9:7). However, just because we are not to give simply because it's necessary, doesn't mean it *isn't* necessary. This same text in-

dicates that our giving should be as we purpose in our hearts. In our hearts we know there will never be a time on this earth when there is no need.

**G**iving, as prescribed in the New Testament is to be based on one's prosperity—not on the needs of the congregation

# A Sweet Story

It happened last Sunday evening. Just a short time before, I had made an appeal for funds for surgery for a sick and needy preacher in the Philippines. Later as I stood in the foyer and many people were handing me funds, two little girls came up and said, "We want to give our money for that man in The Philippines." I said, "Alright".

They opened their little girls purses and each one gave me a few bills, all they had. It was their money, money they had earned, not allowance money. I could see the joy in their expressions and hear it in their voices as they did so.

At first I wanted to tell them to keep it. But NO! What a mistake that would be. It would kill their joy, crush their sweet little hearts, and erase a great lesson they were discovering themselves.

It was truly with a great joy in my heart and a tear in my eyes that I saw them do this and accepted their offering.

These little girls then turned and went their way to play, but with a great new Happiness in their hearts and a big smile on their faces. They had just experienced the great joy of giving. I think they will not soon forget it.

It did me good too.

Ken Marrs

## What is the impact of the "social gospel" on people's faith?

In a study by Peter W. Wielhouwer of Regent University, he discovered that social-service types of church activities are less effective in nurturing the religious commitments of Americans than church activities that focus on spiritual growth.

Wielhouwer examined data from the first wave (1979-80) of the National Survey of Black Americans, which interviewed 2,107 blacks with a "rich series of questions" on their religious attitudes, behaviors, and affiliations. In particular, he explores uncharted territory: the link between individual religiosity (measured by church attendance, private devotional life, and the salience of religion) and the programs of religious institutions, which he separates into two categories: "discipleship" programs that focus on teaching and application of the faith to church members and "ministry" programs that aim to meet physical needs of both members and nonmembers.

All five measures of "discipleship" programs yielded significant positive effects on all three measures of religiosity. The nine measures of the effects of "ministry" pro-

grams, however, yielded only three significant correlations. Only one type of social service program — providing services to the individual such as helping in the house — increased church attendance, whereas receiving goods or financial help yielded no such effect. . None of the "ministry" variables yielded an independent effect on one's devotional life.

These robust findings lead Wielhouwer to warn of the danger of sacrificing the sacred on the altar of the secular: "Congregations seeking more efficient ways to influence religious behavior and attitudes should focus their energies on emphasizing the nature of a person's relationship to God and developing an atmosphere of meaningful relationships and fellowship."

Although recognizing a supporting role for practical, needs-based ministries, the study suggests, contrary to what the policy community presumes, that a "compassionate" church attends to what no other institution can do: helping American families navigate transcendent, rather than temporal, realities.

(Source: Peter W. Wielhouwer, "The Impact of Church Activities and Socialization on African-American Religious Commitment," *Social Science Quarterly* 85 [2004]: 767-792.)

### Published by The church of Christ

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#### Services

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)

# Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

## October 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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New Quarter Begins 2	3	4	5	6	7	Group Meeting <sup>8</sup> (see Terry Raposa)
Group Meeting (see David Main) 9	10	11	Wed. AM Class Resumes 10 AM at the bldg 12	13	14	15
16	17	18	AM & PM Bible Classes 19	20	21	22
23 / 30 (30th) 4 PM Singing	24 / 31	25	AM & PM Bible Classes 26	27	28	29

## November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	AM & PM Bible Classes 2	3	4	5
Parents-Kids Class 6	7	8	AM & PM Bible Classes 9	10	11	12
13	14	15	AM & PM Bible Classes 16	17	18	19
Young People's Class (after PM Services) 20	21	22	AM & PM Bible Classes 23	24	25	26
4 PM Singing 27	28	29	PM Bible Classes No AM Class 30			