

view

October 30, 2005

This Week's Agenda

October 30, 2005

The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM: 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 (Greek study)

News & Prayer Concerns

News

It is hard to believe and difficult to say, but Dennis and Eleanor McAdams will be moving to Woodland because Dennis got a new job there. They will be attending a church in that area. We are very happy for Dennis because he will be doing something he very much wants to do. However, this wonderful couple are part of the backbone of Folsom Point and we will miss them greatly. It just won't be the same.

Prayers Needed

Continue prayers for Belle Smith; Martha Colvin; the Ken McLelland family; Dawn Woolington; 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, Carrie Sadowy, Angie Cain and Nicole Grinnell.

Out of Town

Denise Westphal is out of the country for 2 weeks. Sherrill Colvin is out of town on business for the next week or so. Dennis and Sharron Wade are in Southern California. Ken and Carrie are in Arizona.

Christians Serving in Iraq

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

**SINGING AT 4 PM
TODAY!**

Wednesday

10 AM - Bible Study - OT History, Divided Kingdom to Birth of Christ, 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 - Reflection

Monday - Reflection

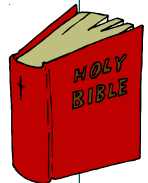
Tuesday - Ezekiel 20-23; Psalm 123-124

Wednesday - Ezekiel 24-26; Psalm 125

Thursday - Ezekiel 27-30; Psalm 126

Friday - Ezekiel 31-34; Psalm 127

Saturday - Ezekiel 35-39; Psalm 128



be returning very soon. We are so thankful for his safety while in Iraq.

Other Involvement Opportunities

The Ladies Workshop will meet again on December 5th at Sharon Bridge's home.

Group Meetings

Group meetings continue. We have just about completed round 3 and will begin round 4 in a couple of weeks.

Calendar

A calendar for November is posted on the last page.

Please post it and add other items to it as needed.

Please let me know if you would like to host the Parents-Kids class scheduled for next Sunday night after classes.

Thank you!

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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

The Significance of Blood

“Steve Brow’s letter, ‘Jesus’ plan for man,’ makes me wonder. Do religious people pay any attention to the words they say and write? For example:

“What kind of barbaric tripe is this ‘blood sacrifice which would pay for the sins of all mankind’? What is being referred to here is not just the slitting the throat of a farm animal and hoping for a good harvest next season, which is bad enough. No, *human* sacrifice is what is being offered as a noble deed. And *self* human sacrifice, to boot.

“Aside from that, what in the world is the connection between ‘sins’ and ‘sacrifice’? If I rob or murder someone, how is spilling sacrificial blood (animal or human) of a third person, like Jesus, compensation to the victims? Where’s the justice? Where’s the common sense?”

Steven J. Moore, Irvine

This letter to the editor appeared in an issue of a newspaper some years ago. What would you say to Mr. Moore? Let’s assume for a moment that his questions are not rhetorical, but sincere. Let’s assume that, unlike Pilate who asked “What is truth?,” and then didn’t stay for the answer, that Mr. Moore would be willing to give you thirty minutes of his time to hear you out. What would you say?

We do not have adequate space to do justice to the answer here, but there are a few thoughts we can suggest that may get us started in the right direction.

Mr. Moore is totally confused about why blood has to be offered in order to take away sin. In fact, he fails to see any connection whatsoever between sin and sacrifice, and I suspect he is representative of many people we meet, some who may come here as visitors. The whole concept of sacrifice, blood and retribution for sin is repugnant to some people. On the other hand, we’ve heard “blood” spoken about for so many years, we’ve rather gotten used to it, perhaps forgetting how radical it must sound to someone with no understanding. Paul called the whole idea the “foolishness of God” (I Cor. 1:18) because he recognized man’s failure to see any “common sense” (i.e., human wisdom) in the gospel plan.

The problem for most folks is that their theology is backwards — they are man-centered instead of God-centered. Mr. Moore betrays this attitude when he complains that a third party’s sacrifice has no benefit to the victim. In other words, Jesus’ sacrifice does not undo the results of a crime—the murdered and robbed stayed murdered and robbed, as if Jesus had done nothing.

But that is hardly the point. The point is that if Mr. Moore was stupid enough to murder someone (and therefore breaking all bounds of moral restraint and, indeed, “common sense”) what happens if he afterward decides to reform his life? Will 50 years of refusing to murder atone for the one murder he committed? More to the real issue, what does he *deserve* from God, regardless of what society imposes on him if he gets caught? What is God to do with him?

You see the questions revolve more around God than around *us*. Yes, we benefit or we pay, depending upon what God does, but it is based upon what *God* does more than on what we do. Actually, we affirm that it takes far “less” (*less* only in the human sense) than murder and robbery to offend God. Everyone who has the capacity to sin, does: “for all have sinned and fall short of His glory” (Rom. 3:23). There is no exception. The question, then, is not: “How could this loving and good God destroy ‘good’ people”? When left to themselves, there *are* no good people! “There is none righteous, no not one” (Rom. 3:10). The proper form of the question is: “How could God, who is both perfectly merciful and perfectly just, save any of us, seeing that we have all sinned against Him?” There is a major difference between those two questions, and everything hinges on which question we own. The first is man-centered; the second is God-centered.

If we understand the form of the second question, things begin to fall into place. God must be just as well as merciful. Justice requires the destruction of the unjust, otherwise it would not be “justice.” It is precisely at this point where many people fail to understand the gospel. They have so concentrated on the mercy and kindness of God that they have ignored His justice. But, “consider the goodness *and* severity of God. . .” (Rom. 11:22). God is both just *and* loving

and, perfect God that He is, there must be full expression given to both.

This is where the concept of “sacrifice” comes in. If any sinner is going to be reconciled to God, his sins must be taken away. God does not — cannot! — coexist with sin. Sin

must be dealt with before a person comes to God. But God’s love has provided a way, although it was a difficult and costly way for Him. He sent His only Son to die for the

sins of the world. The death Jesus would die would have two components, but one was more critical than the other. He would die a *physical* death, shedding his precious blood on the cross. He did this, not like the animals who were the involuntary subjects of sacrifice under the Old Testament (they were a type of the perfect sacrifice to come), but as a voluntary and perfect sacrifice, a perfectly innocent man dying a criminal’s death. That fact alone should get our attention.

But the more severe pain came in another kind of death. Until the cross, God’s wrath against sin had never been satisfied (or “propitiated,” a term worth learning — see Heb. 2:17; I Jn. 2:1, etc.). Now, I realize that Mr. Moore and his theologically-naïve colleagues may not see the point, but I can’t help that (perhaps C. S. Lewis’ statement applies here: “those who can’t understand books written for grown-ups shouldn’t attempt to read them”). In any case, God’s anger against sin could not finally be assuaged by any number of animal sacrifices (cf. Hb 10:4) or even by imperfect human blood. God was not interested in such, and those who engaged in human sacrifice were an abomination to God (Jer. 19:5). Jesus’ sacrifice was not just another “human sacrifice.” When He shed His blood, He underwent a *spiritual* death as well — God’s son was separated from God! “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*” (II Cor. 5:21). You see? God threw all of humanity’s sins on the body and soul of His Son Jesus — “*He was wounded for our transgressions*” (Isa. 53:5).

Why blood? Because Christ had to give His life for us in order to undergo the full experience of human death (cf. Heb. 2:14-17), a death He would overcome when He was raised three days later and which He will one day finally destroy (I Cor. 15:26). And

“life is in the blood” (Lv. 17:11). The taking of communion memorializes this blood (as well as the body He gave) as that which was given to atone for our sins,

The question, then, is not: “How could this loving and good God destroy ‘good’ people?” . . . The proper form of the question is: “How could God, who is both perfectly merciful and perfectly just, save any of us, seeing that we have all sinned against Him?”

and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world.

Yes, a third party does offer compensation to sinners, including Mr. Moore, if he would accept it. But you have to have faith.

David Posey

AND WHAT DOES THE LORD

TO ACT JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE

MERCY

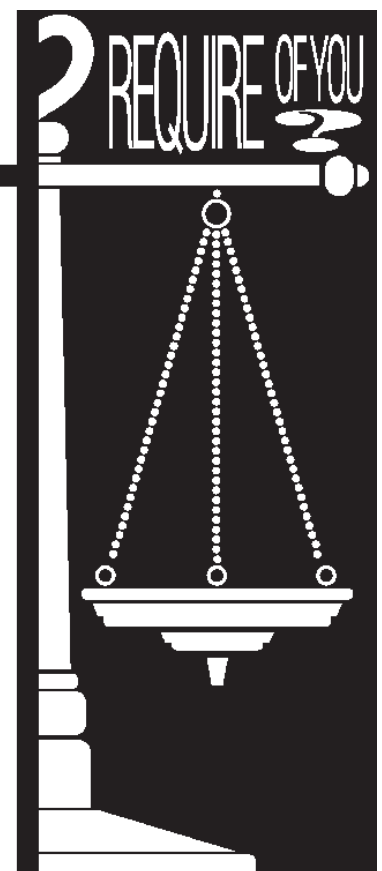
AND TO WALK

HUMBLY

WITH YOUR

GOD.

M I C A H 6 : 8



Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

October 2005

(23) Group Meeting
(see Dane Scott)

23 / 30 (30th) 4 PM Singing	24 / 31	25	26 AM & PM Bible Classes	27	28 Group Meeting (see Russ Tarrant)	29
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November 2005

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

Notes

*Parents-Kids are for 6-12 year olds (and their parents); Young People's Class is for 13-18 year olds. Please let me know if you are willing to host one of these classes. Also, let me know if you would like to facilitate the discussion in one of these classes.

**The elders will be meeting to discuss the work of the church for 2006 and beyond. If you have topics you would like us to include in our agenda, please speak to Dan, David or Randy.

