

View

February 4, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: Don Alexander

5 PM – Singing, Lord's Supper, Sermon

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Auditorium: Outlining Your Bible

Room 11-12: Revelation – Seven Churches of Asia

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: Next Class – February 13th

Wednesday

10:00 AM – OT History - 10 AM at the building.

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

Auditorium – Galatians

Room 11-12: The First Century Church

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

Prayer Concerns

Carl Hanson continues to recover - keep he and Arlene in your prayers.

Others to include in your petitions to our Father: Sara Clark, Ken Dickey (Steve's older brother), Herman Ward, Sharon Jones, Frances Kaler, Becky Woolpert (former member) and Beverly Henderson (Pamela Ludlow's mother); those who are expecting: Julie Agee, Aimee Cain, Candee Dickey, and Amber Karlsson; men serving in foreign fields: Steven Sabath (Arletta's son), Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew) and Danny Boyer.

Welcome!

As was announced Wednesday evening, Cherokee Chuculate has placed her membership with us. Please welcome her to the congregation

Group Meetings

Next round of meetings to begin in March. Check with the Deacon in charge of your group.

Daily Bible Reading Plan Available

Get 2007 off to a great start by reading your Bible each day. You can acquire the 5-day per week reading plan by visiting our website at www.folsomchurch.com.

Vacation Bible School

We have set the date for this years' VBS: June 25-29. Please make your plans accordingly.

Out of Town

Several of our members are out of town today, including the Terrys, Browns and Caisse family. David and Christie Posey are out of town, Florida College Lectures, returning Thursday.



**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

Preachers we support

John Scholtz - South Africa, Zimbabwe
Robert Nichols - Japan
Barney Mejía - Nicaragua
Dale Pennock - Vermont
Gary Stouffer - Vista, CA
Jim Lee - Englewood, Ohio
Jeff Carr - Mandeville, LA
Armando C. Pastor - Sto. Domingo & Dumabel
Pepe G. Ando - Davao City
Amado M. Estoy - Iriga City
Ecclesiastes C. Licayan - Monkayo
Abe S. Aguete - Pagudpud
Rex M. Bayaca - Laoag City
James Amangan - Bangued
Quirino Tien - Cuyayan Valley
Rosilito F. Nardo in Koronadal City.
Johnny Buguis in General Santos City.

Selective Service

By Dee Bowman

Service is the essence of discipleship. It is the cross-bearing Jesus describes when He says, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). According to this definition a disciple is one who serves his master, one who is so disposed to do that service that he is willing to subordinate else everything in his life to do so—even his own will.

Man is fitted for service. He was created for that purpose. Even in the paradise garden Adam and Eve were instructed to perform certain services pleasing to God. Their failure to do so resulted in their failure to glorify God and sin came into the world. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” (Rom. 6:23). God’s purpose in man’s existence is thwarted by his failure to serve Him, or, in other words, bring Him glory.

All service is commendable, but the highest form of it is voluntary service. When someone is instructed to perform a certain duty and he does it, that is commendable; but when one does what he does voluntarily, that is better—a higher, more noble form of action. For instance, dogs and cats, plants and heavenly bodies all do what God designed them to do, but by a law of necessity. They have no choice in the matter. Man, on the other hand, can deliberately choose to do good or evil and when he deliberately chooses to do what God says, that glorifies Him in a way that no other part of nature can do, simply because it has no choice.

Man is never more noble than when he places himself at the disposal of God. He is near that same nobility when he intentionally puts himself at the disposal of his fellows. It is on this principle that the first and second greatest commandments rest (Matt. 22:37). To love God is the supreme service maneuver; to love his neighbor is near to it. And when man consciously obeys God knowing that to do so will surely place him in an adversarial predicament or an uncomfortable situation, he not only operates at a high level of manliness, but he simultaneously brings the very highest honor to God. Service in the face of persecution is service at its finest.

Service, as we have intimated, is a choice. A man makes up his mind that he should do it, that he has some special obligation to it, that it will benefit someone or some situation, and that it will, in the ultimate reality, bring honor to God. In order to make wise choices man

needed to know for a certainty what is true and what is not. “There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). No matter how wise man becomes, he can never find his way to truth and piety without the revelation of God (1 Cor. 2:9; Jer. 10:23), but “God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit...” (1 Cor. 2:10). Furthermore, it is by this revelation of truth that man becomes accountable. He cannot plead ignorance, for God can be known, His truth ascertained. Based on that truth, then, man can

“There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death” ...Prov. 14:12

make intelligent choices to serve. He not only knows how to serve, but when and where. Humility is the predicate on which all service rests. Until a man sees that when he is divorced from his relationship to God he has no real value, he will likely serve himself, buying what pleases him, enjoying what the world offers to slake his thirst for pleasure and enjoyment. In doing so, he values himself too highly and trusts in temporality. He builds a pyramid with I at its pinnacle, Me next, Mine after that, and Myself at the base. He bows down to it regularly for it constitutes the object of his service. Even the Son of God saw the need for humility when He “made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant...and humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:9-10). Humility underscores all service. In His personal ministry, Jesus everywhere illustrates the connection between humility and service. When He is headed toward Jerusalem to meet His demise, He stops and stoops to wash the feet of His disciples. Following that pensive and unnecessary act, He said, “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you. Verily, verily I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him” (Jn. 13:14-15). Service is never more beautiful than when the greater stoops down to help the lesser.

Self Improvement

By Bubba Garner

Christianity is all about growing. There is no potion in the waters of baptism that magically transforms a babe in Christ into a spiritual adult. You don't come by it automatically, either; it requires diligence, devotion, and dedication. For those who wish to be "partakers of the divine nature", Peter calls for an unparalleled commitment to growth and development. In other words, you're going to have to undergo a complete character renovation.

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love" (2 Pet. 1:5-7). This is not the Lord's idea of a cafeteria buffet where you pick and choose which qualities will be yours. Much like the beatitudes, you either have them all or you have none of them. And in order to make your calling and election sure, you must, "applying all diligence", seek every opportunity to grow in these areas.

Add on to your faith. Everything else is added or supplied to *faith* because it is the fundamental building block; "without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb. 11:6). Faith that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him is the foundation and root of the Christian's character. If the other qualities are not done in faith, they are not done at all.

But that is just the starting place, not the finish line. Our faith must have *virtue* or *moral excellence*, an energy that moves our conviction into action, our belief into practice. The Lord "demonstrates His own love toward us" (Rom. 5:8), and He expects similar proofs of affection from those who love Him, for adding virtue to faith is the only way to make it grow.

Moral excellence is incomplete without moral wisdom or *knowledge*. Doesn't it seem logical that the more we know about Him, the stronger our conviction will be? His word equips us with "all things pertaining to life and godliness" and is sufficient to satisfy our every need. As our knowledge and understanding multiplies, our faith and virtue can only increase.

Hold on to your hope. The writer of Hebrews tells us that "faith is the substance of things hoped for" or that faith is what stands under our hope. *Self control* literally means "holding yourself in" and speaks to the

and the ability to control your mind and your body. Knowledge of the word of God furnishes us with a self government that allows our appetites to be fulfilled only when they are done so in the Lord. Hold on to your hope by holding on to your throttle.

Faith-built hope makes *perseverance* easier. Not easy, just easier. Perseverance is rendered *patience* in some versions and comes from the verb that means "to wait." Our failures of the past and difficulties of the present are made bearable only because of our bright anticipation of the future. Hold on just a little longer. It's worth the wait.

The hope of seeing God is made real as we become more like Him. *Godliness* is the deep desire of the son to have more of his Father in him. Growth is evident when we are no longer fashioned according to the world but conformed into the image of the Son. And such we are when we have clothed ourselves with righteousness, holiness, and godliness.

Keep on in your love. It is no accident or coincidence that Peter's formula for growth culminates in love. What else can stem from godliness but love? In particular, *brotherly kindness*, or a common affection that is reserved for our spiritual family. That means you love the brethren who are unloved, unlovable, and undeserving of love. Whoever is unwilling to demonstrate such brotherly kindness has neither godliness nor God. But He who truly loves the Father will prove to be lovers of His children. All of them. Remember, one of the ways in which people recognize our relationship with the Master is our relationship with one another.

Our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ is crowned with our *love* for our brothers and sisters in the human race. What greater service can we perform for our fellow man than to have a genuine concern for his soul and show him the way to the Savior? That's the kind of love for the keeping.

It is not enough to just say that you possess these qualities; they must be "yours" and "increasing" (2Pet 1:8). We can always add a little more self control, a little more virtue, and a lot more brotherly kindness. Those who continue to add on and hold on and keep will obtain a character according to His likeness and, in the end, the salvation of their soul. What greater motivation do you need?

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
2 Pet 1:9

Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	5	6	7 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	8	9	10
11 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	12	13 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	14 OT History Class: 10 AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	15	16	17
18 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	19	20 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	21 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	22	23	24
25 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	26	27 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	28 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes			

Mark Your Calendar

February 11th, State of the Church Presentation by the elders

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

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 and encourage those activities that provide an opportunity to be built up in the faith and provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body at Folsom Point.

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT FOLSOM

We are a church of Christ patterned after the New Testament example of local churches. We believe in the authoritative word of God and will provide you with a Bible answer for everything we do in our doctrine and practice. We exalt Jesus Christ and seek to glorify Him, not ourselves (Ephesians 3:21). Therefore, our efforts are directed toward promoting commitment to Christ, not to any man or institution (I Corinthians 2:5).

Our assemblies are simple. We sing without use of an instrument (see Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; we will be happy to show you why we use no instrument, if you desire further study on this issue). We pray (I Timothy 2:1), partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (I Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7) and teach from God's word. All preaching comes from the Bible.

The financial support of this congregation comes entirely from the free-will offerings of its members made on the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-7). We never solicit funds from non-members. Contributions are used for the spiritual growth of this church and for the support of a few men in other areas, such as the Philippines, who are preaching the gospel. We do not use money collected here for social programs or the support of any human institution. We believe the church itself can do all the work God has given it to do. And we aim to do *only* the work God has given it to do – teach the gospel, build up the members, and help needy Christians. All other "good work" is the responsibility of individual Christians (Titus 2:11-14; James 1:27; Galatians 6:9-10).

We offer personal Bible studies at your convenience. We are here to help you with your spiritual needs: please favor us with a request for a Bible study or correspondence course that you can complete at your pace.