

View

June 17, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: Dan Singleton

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Sermon: Jeff Herrin

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium: Judges

Room 11-12: Evangelism Workshop

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: No class this week

Wednesday

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

Auditorium – Minor Prophets

Room 11-12: Revelation 4-22: Victory in Jesus!

News & Prayer Concerns

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

Prayer Concerns

Continue your prayers for Dan Hamilton, Dylan Franklin, David Ramsey, Tom Royston, Hank and Kathy Wilson, Julie Bumgarten and Sharon Jones.

Continue to keep Myrtle Farrell, Gwen's mother, in mind.

Pray for those who are expecting: Sarah Cain, Nicole Grinnell and Jamie Gardner, and for the couples that would like to have children, but have not been able.

Continue your prayers for those who serve our country. Jeremy Allen, Art and Peggy's son, is heading back to Iraq and will be serving in the Baghdad area, so pray for him.

Kaisa Karlsson

Kaisa was born to Amber and Magnus on Tuesday evening, weighing about 6 lbs. We rejoice with them and are thankful that all went well.

Quarterly Singing

The singing, normally held on the last Sunday of the quarter is scheduled for the 27th, during VBS week.

Meetings

The ladies class will meet tomorrow night at 7:30PM at Melissa Field's home. There is a VBS meeting today and a Bible Class Committee meeting next week at 3:30.

Out of Town

David and Christie Posey are in San Jose this week. David is preaching at the Miller Lectures. They will return on

Saturday. CJ and Matthew Woolington will be in Nevada for the balance of the summer. Pray for their welfare while they are away and for Dawn. The Raposas are out of town today, as are the Warshaws, Reagans and Nathanael and Misty.

Gospel Meetings

Reminder: Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked gospel meetings with Bob Owen in the Fall of 2008, Paul Earnhart in 2009 and Dee Bowman in 2011.

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Vacation Bible School



Next week, June 25-29, VBS begins. We are looking forward to a great week.

Be Thankful

Jason Moore

Americans, above all citizenries, have cause to be grateful. Christians, regardless of citizenship, have above all peoples reason to give thanks. Being temporary inhabitants of a free country, permanent citizens of a better country, and members of a peaceful congregation making its pilgrimage toward that better land, we especially have every reason to be thankful and no reason to be otherwise. Gratitude alone befits the disciple. Ingratitude ought to be an unwelcome guest in his house. In fact, no guest at all, but a stranger and an enemy to his contentment.

Ingratitude is the custom of the backslider.

Gratitude is the natural response to God's grace and goodness, so that ingratitude is the obvious and initial sign of a man's falling from grace. It's the posture of mind that causes him to lose his footing and fall away from God. When men leave God they start by not honoring him as God and by not giving thanks (Rom. 1:21).

Worship is one of the obvious times for giving thanks and so one of the first habits to be neglected by the backslider.

Busyness or embarrassment also prevents a man from giving thanks over his food. Looking down at his schedule or around at his peers, he neglects to look up and thank God for His gifts.

Furthermore, the ungrateful do not read their bibles because reading the bible makes a man think of God. Thinking of God makes men thankful. "Think" and "thank" are kindred terms. We "give thanks" when the sight or memory of someone is a "thought" we welcome. "Giving thanks" then begins with "giving thinks." A man who doesn't think much will not thank much. Such is the manner of those who leave God. Rarely or never pausing to worship, to pray or to read their bible they do not think of God enough to give thanks to Him at all.

On the other hand, giving thanks is the habit of the new man.

It seasons the speech of the disciple. Filthiness, silly talk, and coarse jesting adorn the world's conversation, but they do not "fit" the Christian (Eph. 5:4). Having "put on the new man," the trademark of his conversation is the custom of being thankful. "Where never is heard a discouraging word" ought to be the slogan that describes the Christian's speech. Why would the Christian, confident in God's promises and enthused with the Christian hope, despair in his speech and be heard to complain over his lot in life? His speech is salted with gratitude not soured with bitterness.

That's only logical. If ingratitude is the sign of slipping, then thankfulness is the sign of standing fast. For reasons stated earlier, the thankful man is necessarily thoughtful of

God. His habit of worship, of prayer, of study fills his mind with thinking of God and so his tongue with thanks toward God. His thoughtfulness is expressed in his thankfulness, inasmuch as "the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart" (Matt. 12:34).

He orders his life to think of God by giving time for daily meditation on God's goodness and grace. His counting of his blessings and thus his gratitude is not a once-a-year, but an often-each-day occurrence. "In everything [he] give thanks, for this is God's will for [him] in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:18).

Paul warned Timothy of "difficult times" when men, laden with other transgressions, would add ingratitude to the list (2 Tim. 3:2). Ingratitude is the characteristic of a people who know not God, or who knowing Him permit other cares to cloud their hearts from thinking of Him and thus being thankful. It is the "pure in heart" who "shall see God" both here and in eternity. They are blessed. And they are grateful to be so blessed. Let us be of that sort.

Got Change?

Bubba Garner

I distinctly remember a conversation with a classmate when I was a senior in high school. Her father was running for a new seat in the U.S. House of Representatives that had opened up in our district. I considered him a good man and was disappointed that he shared his political party's view on several issues, including abortion and homosexuality. When she asked if I would help campaign for him, I told her what I believed the Bible taught on such matters, which explained how I couldn't support him, which further explained why I wasn't going to vote for him! She balked at my "old fashioned" views and said that I needed to "get in the nineties."

We live in a changing world—a fast changing world at that. Clothes that were in style at this time last year are now in boxes or garage sales. Computers that were on the cutting-edge of technology six months ago are now ancient and outdated. Things seem to come and go before we can figure out where they came from and where they went.

But fashion and technology are not the only things that are trying to keep up with the times. There is an ever-present temptation for the Christian to be more modernistic, to participate in the current fads, lifestyles, and genres of culture. Once, a lady asked me if I preached for the "old church of Christ or the new church of Christ." That's a pretty good commentary on how people view religion. But God is not someone who can be changed to fit our needs; we do the altering when we fit our lives to His laws.

in the midst of our changing world, we must not relinquish our hold on the unchanging hand of God. He is the same "yesterday and today, yes, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). In Him there is "no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). It ought to be of great comfort to know that we have a

relationship with One who never needs revision, updating, or upgrading. The more things change, the more He stays the same. And since God does not change, that which He has spoken is also eternal. Isaiah spoke of the brevity of life in contrast with the enduring word when he said, “the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand forever” (Isa. 40:8). The Psalmist was not interested in what was politically correct or popular with the world but appealed to the statutes and commandments of God which are “forever settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). That means that His standard of right and wrong is as true today as when He spoke it through His prophets, through His apostles, and through His Son. And no matter how innocent the winds of change may seem, when we depart from the testimony of the Lord, we reap the whirlwind of worldliness and destruction.

Are we changing? We are if we allow the way the world thinks to affect the way we think. We are if we let what the world does influence what we do. We are if we compromise the eternal truth for things that are relative and temporary.

We need change. But we need the kind that turns the hearts of men to the way of salvation. We need the kind that seeks for personal growth, the kind of change that’s for the better.

Benjamin Franklin on the Failure of Creeds

“But there are so many creeds, all claiming to be right, that I should not know which to take. They were all made by learned men, and if they can not agree on the kind of a creed, how am I to decide which is right?” says one. It is a matter of great moment and of much relief that, aside from all these conflicting, clashing, and erring creeds, there is one book that all parties concede is right. They all agree that the Bible is right — that it came from God. They all further agree that it contains the law of God — that the law of the Lord is perfect. The only wonder is, that man ever attempted to make any other creed or law for the Church. Such an undertaking could not have commenced without two wicked assumptions:

1. That the law of God, as set forth in the Bible, is not sufficient — is a failure.
2. That the insufficiency or failure can be remedied by weak, erring, and uninspired men.

No man of intelligence will affirm, in plain terms, that the Bible is not sufficient for the government of the saints; or that man — uninspired man — can make a creed that will serve a better purpose than the Bible. Still such affirmations are implied in every attempt made by uninspired men to make a creed. If you admit, as all are bound to do, that the law of God is in the Bible; that nothing may be added to it, nothing taken from it, and that

no part of it may be changed, there is not an excuse in the world for making another law. The law of God in the Bible is the law, the divine law, the supreme law, in the kingdom of God; and it is a treasonable movement to attempt to get up another constitution, law, name, body, or officers, apart from the constitution, law, name, body, and officers as found in the Bible.

But the matter now in hand is to find a safe course to pursue. Can this be done? All admit the Bible is right. All admit that the law of God in the Bible is right. All admit that those who follow the Bible honestly and faithfully, in faith and practice, will be saved. All admit that wherever any creed differs from the Bible is wrong. Then it is infallibly safe to take the Bible and follow it. When men undertake to prove that a human creed is a good one, they argue that it is like the Bible. If a creed like the Bible is a good one, why will not the Bible itself do? If the Bible will not serve the purpose — is insufficient and a failure — a creed like it would be equally insufficient. When men make a creed to do what the Bible would not do, they should certainly make it different from the Bible, or would serve no better purpose than the Bible itself.

— excerpt from “The Infallibly Safe Course,” New Testament Christianity, ed. by Z.T. Sweeney

Doing the Work of Righteousness

an excerpt of Clement of Rome ca. AD 95

What then shall we do, brothers? Shall we idly abstain from doing good, and forsake love? May the Master never allow this to happen, at least to us; but let us hasten with earnestness and zeal to accomplish every good work. (2) For the Creator and Master of the universe himself rejoices in his works. (3) For by his infinitely great might he established the heavens, and in his incomprehensible wisdom he set them in order. Likewise he separated the earth from the water surrounding it, and set it firmly upon the sure foundation of his own will; and the living creatures which walk upon it he called into existence by his decree. Having already created the sea and the living creatures in it, he fixed the boundaries by his own power. (4) Above all, as the most excellent and by far the greatest work of his intelligence, with his holy and faultless hands he formed man as a representation of his own image. (5) For thus spoke God: “Let us make man in our image and likeness. And God created man; male and female he created them.” (6) So, having finished all these things, he praised them and blessed them and said, “Increase and multiply.” (7) We have seen that all the righteous have been adorned with good works. Indeed, the Lord himself, having adorned himself with good works, rejoiced. (8) So, since we have this pattern, let us unhesitatingly conform ourselves to his will; let us with all our strength do the work of righteousness. (1 Clem. 33)

Mark Your Calendar

June 18th, Ladies Class, 7:30PM at the home of Melissa Fields

June 24th, Bible Class Committee meeting, building, 3:30PM

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

June 27th, Quarterly Singing

October 8-10, 2007 - Meeting with Ed Harrell

Preachers We Help Support



John Scholtz - South Africa, Zimbabwe

Robert Nichols - Japan

Barney Mejia - Nicaragua

Dale Pennock - Vermont

Gary Stouffer - Vista, CA

Jim Lee - Englewood, Ohio

Jeff Carr - Mandeville, LA

Roberto Tondelli, Rome, Italy

Philippines

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 - Cagayan Valley

Rosilito F. Nardo in Koronadal City.

Johnny Buguis in General Santos City.

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.