

View

August 5, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: David Posey

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

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium: Studies in Authority

Room 11-12: Seed Sowers Workshop

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel (No class this week)

Wednesday

7:30 PM – Summer Program - Everyone 6th grade and up will be in the auditorium. Classes for younger ages.

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 to pray for Bill Cain, Trey's father. He continues to have his ups and downs. It is going to be a long road with extensive rehabilitation involved

Pray for Debbie Ramsey (sister of Andy Cantrell). She has been diagnosed with cancer and is beginning her chemotherapy treatments.

Continue your prayers for Naomi Fannin, Tom Royston, Dylan Franklin, Patsy Main (David's mother), Herman Ward, David Ramsey, Julie Bumgarten, Kathy Wilson and Sharon Jones. Keep Myrtle Farrell, Gwen's mother, in mind.

Continue to pray for Jackson Agee, Logan and Julie's child.

Continue to pray for Carl and Arlene Hanson.

Pray for those who are expecting: Sarah Cain, Nicole Grinnell and Jamie Gardner, April Franklin, Dawn Brooks, Karen Cain 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 serving in the Baghdad area, so pray for him.

Quarterly Singing

Our next quarterly singing will be held on September 30th, the last Sunday of the quarter.

Baptism

We are thrilled to announce the baptism of Ben Kloss, husband of Barbara (Veitschegger) and son-in-law of Will and Mary Ellen. Ben was baptized on Tuesday, July 31st.

Wedding

Pray for our newly weds, Luke Garcia and Ashley Setliff were married Friday.

Out of Town

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.

Others out of town, Michael, Green, Ladd family, Dave and Christie Hamilton, Terry family, Luke and Ashley Garcia, Tyler Brown, Daniels family, Byrd family (Bryan), Dave and Michelle Sanderson, Ries family, the Shamblin's and the Singleton's.

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.



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

Whoever Speaks

David Posey

"Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God..." (1 Pet. 4:11). That's God's way of saying, "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent." We have no right to speak about spiritual matters unless we can do it with the authority of God so that "in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 4:11b).

Whatever authority we are using is the standard by which we measure whether an act is right or wrong. Elders and preachers who equivocate on issues, express doubt about the veracity of any Scripture, or who rarely let the Scriptures speak in their actual decisions, produce spiritually weak members. Spiritually weak members nearly always become *morally* weak members.

Religious acts must be measured by God's authority – His is the only authority that counts. He has the authority and so His word is authoritative: "sanctify them in truth, Your word is truth," said Jesus in His prayer to His Father (Jn. 17:7). Peter added that "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (2 Pet. 1:3). Those who say it doesn't matter *what* you believe are fundamentally misguided and confused. For, if it doesn't matter what you believe, does it matter *whether* you believe?

The right to say a thing or to do a thing must come from God. "Authority," from man's perspective, means the *right to act*. We don't "establish" this authority, in the sense of instituting it. That's the Lord's business and He's done it already. Our job is to ascertain or *discover* the authority He has established. We must discover God's authority before an act can be right.

There are seven things that hinder the discovery of authority, and keep us from speaking as the "utterances of God."

1. A low priority for Bible reading. We let too many things distract us from the regular reading of Scripture. If the Bible contains "all things that

pertain to life and godliness," we can ill-afford to ignore it, even for a day. Churches are stronger where daily Bible reading is encouraged and where the public reading of Scripture is practiced (1 Tim. 4:13).

2. Lack of personal, objective knowledge. In Hosea 4:6, God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." It was always a lack of applied knowledge that caused Israel to commit spiritual suicide. When you hear the following, you can be sure there is a lack of solid Bible knowledge:

- *When opinion is put in the place of solid Bible study.* Instead of saying, "As Paul says..." we say, "I think..." There is a place for opinion, but not when it comes to discovering God's authority.
- *When we rely on past teaching instead of fresh study.* There is nothing wrong with remembering good teaching in the past, but we need to constantly review and refresh our minds.
- *Emotionalism is substituted for faith:* we say "I feel..." instead of "I know..."
- *OPK: "other peoples' knowledge."* Our knowledge is from borrowed viewpoints, instead of learning for ourselves. I've actually heard people say, "I believe anything brother ____ says on the subject." It is dangerous and foolish to put such faith in *any* man.
- *Views adopted, but never personally confirmed.* "I don't know, but my preacher says..." "My dad taught me...that's good enough for me!" "If it was good enough for dear old mom." There is no authority in man; it all rests in God.

3. Satisfaction with pat answers, fill-in-the-blanks, "pigeonhole knowledge," instead of thinking issues through. In Mk. 12:24, Jesus told the Sadducees that they understood neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. If a preacher in an average Bible class in the average church asks what "grace" means he will probably get the answer, "unmerited favor." But what is unmerited favor? And is that *all* it means? Is our speech

to always be with “unmerited favor” (Col. 4:6)?

4. Putting tradition in place of truth. Jn. 5:39-40; Mt. 15:1-8. What would happen if a church decided to eliminate mid-week Bible classes in favor of home studies, as Berry Kercheville suggested in the April 1999 issue of Focus? Some actually believe that doing so would be wrong, but by what authority? There is nothing at all in Scripture that pinpoints a certain time or place during the week that we must meet, other than the first day of the week.

5. Taking comfort in “packaged religion”; denominational thinking; affiliation with the “right church” instead of personal faith.

Many will go to hell because they gave finding “the right church” little or no thought (they ignored authority on this issue). On the other hand, not one soul will enter heaven *because* he was in a strong church. The local church is designed to assist you in your effort to satisfy your longing for personal righteousness (Mt. 5:6), not to become a substitute for it.

6. Arrogance & pride. There are some who think they know it all. They are above studying their lessons, because they’ve “arrived.” They justify a lack of study and participation in extra classes because they are “experienced.” No class or teacher has skill enough to teach them, because it’s all old hat. They are proud to the core and that pride will lead to their personal destruction (Pr. 16:18; 18:12). Arrogance quickly turns to ignorance (Hb. 5:11-12). How can anyone look at the Bible and say, with a straight face, “I’ve got nothing more to learn.” That is utter ignorance.

7. Dishonesty: Hidden agendas, ulterior motives. The Scribes and Pharisees were notorious for trying to trap Jesus. They came on several occasions to “test him.” There are brethren who are born of the same spirit. When they ask a question, it is to gain advantage, to win the point, but not to discover truth. If our main aim is to win an argument, make a point, justify a position, validate an act or feel good about ourselves, we will never discover what God wants us to do.

Conclusion

Our aim in understanding authority is to

understand that Christ has *all* of it. Jesus said, “all authority has been given to Me in heaven and in earth” (Mt. 28:18). That’s the point. When we speak, we must speak as the very utterances of God because only when we speak as the Bible speaks are we speaking “with authority.”

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30AM

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

Mark Your Calendar

September 30th, 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 congregations 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.