

# View

August 19, 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 (Posey's Home)

#### 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 your prayers for Bill Cain (Trey's father), Belle Smith, 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.

Pray for Ed Dye (Etta's brother-in-law). He was recently diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, cancer of the blood.

Continue to pray for Jackson Agee (Logan and Julie's child), pray for Carl and Arlene Hanson.

Pray for those who are expecting: Nicole Grinnell, Jamie Gardner, Sarah Cain, April Franklin, Dawn Brooks, Karen Cain, Whitney Schrimsher, Heather Rico and for the couples that would like to have children, but have not been able.

Debbie Ramsey is doing well, and no chemo will be necessary. Following several scans it was determined that the cancer was removed at the first surgery and no trace of it anywhere else. Wonderful news!

Continue your prayers for those who serve our country. Beau Martindale, Norma Smith's grandson is in Afghanistan for 16 months. Jeremy Allen, Art and Peggy's son, is serving in the Baghdad area.

Keep all our young college students in your prayers while they are away from home, ....the latest being Tyler Brown and Kaitlin Reagan.

#### Out of Town

None noted.

#### Baptism

We are thrilled to report that Rebecca Decoste, who has been attending for several weeks with Tyler Brown (and also attending the John class on Tuesdays) was baptized into Christ Thursday.

#### Quarterly Singing

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

#### 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!**

# BAPTISM

Three precious souls have been baptized into Christ here at Folsom Point in the last 2 ½ weeks. They have recognized the importance of obedience to the gospel and submitted themselves to the command of Christ and the apostles. But many in the religious world question – or outright deny – the necessity of baptism. What can we say to these folks?

When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, many listened and believed. Convicted of their sins, they asked a logical question: “What shall we do to be saved?” This question was an exercise of the faith they had after hearing the word preached (Rom. 10:17). They believed and wanted to submit to whatever God command them to do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized for remission of sins. “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (see Acts 2:37-41). These people were saved by faith.

Some theologians argue with this analysis. Since they view baptism as a work of law they contend that teaching the necessity of baptism is something akin to teaching salvation by works of law. They see but two alternatives: one is either justified by perfect performance of law or one is saved without reference to anything he does. Since the first is ruled out by passages like Gal. 2:16, they declare the second the only possible alternative: salvation comes by grace through faith *only*. Though this assertion fails to address the fact that even basic faith is *doing* something (Jesus calls it the “work of God” in John 6:29), they are resolute in their assertion of the dilemma and proceed to discard baptism as an unnecessary addition to God’s plan.

Is there such a dilemma? “Our problem is that Augustine, Luther and other Western theologians have convinced us that there’s an irreconcilable conflict between salvation based on grace and salvation conditioned on works or obedience. They have used a fallacious form of argumentation known as the ‘false dilemma,’ by asserting that there are only two possibilities regarding salvation: it’s either (1) a gift from God or (2) it’s something we earn by works.” (David Bercot, *Will the Real*

*Heretics Please Stand Up?* Scroll Publishing Co., Waco, TX, p. 62).

Bercot’s right. The false dilemma has caused many to struggle with the place of baptism in a system of salvation that is clearly based on faith (Rom. 1:17; 3:21-26). Yet there is no contradiction between justification by faith (trusting submission to the will of God) and the requirement to be baptized. Baptism is no more foreign to the concept of faith than Abel’s offering a sacrifice (Heb. 11:4) or Noah’s building of the ark (Heb. 11:7) or Abraham’s “going out” (Heb. 11:8). Who would question the act if the texts said, “by faith, Noah, being divinely warned...was baptized for remission of his sins”? And no reasonable person would argue that Noah still exercised a saving faith if, being divinely warned, he *refused* to be baptized? Even if called “faith,” it would have been no more effective than the faith that devils practice (Jas. 2:19).

Baptism is so clearly a part of the plan of God to save man that Peter says “baptism now saves us” (I Pet. 3:21), Paul ascribes the clothing of ourselves with Christ to it (Gal. 3:26-27) and Paul makes our union with Christ dependent upon it (Rom. 6:1-7). How can anyone assert that it is not essential?

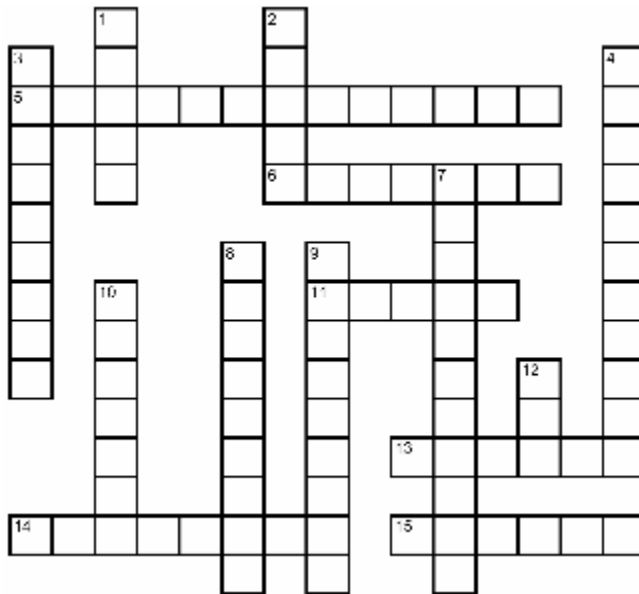
Ironically, some opponents of the necessity of baptism have proved it’s significance by the form of arguments they lodge against it. For example, A. T. Robertson, in his *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, makes this comment on Romans. 6:3: “The translation ‘into’ makes Paul say that the believers union with Christ was effected by baptism.” His bias doesn’t allow him to accept the translation, but the translators of nearly every version have chosen “into” to translate the Greek term.

For another example, the *Campus Crusade for Christ* seeks to undermine the effect of Acts 2:37-38 with these comments in a paper entitled “Bible Study on Water Baptism”: “*It is true that Peter tells them to be baptized. However, his sermon in Acts 2 is probably not a part of the original sermon...*” In case that doesn’t work, they try this: “*it seems possible that if the people hadn’t asked ‘what shall we do?’ (not ‘what must we do’ as in Acts 16:30) that Peter may never have mentioned baptism at all!*” And that’s meant to convince college students! I hope they can see through that.

Clearly, baptism is an essential act of faith. Those who say otherwise have an agenda that is not from the Lord.

David Posey

## BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

5 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for \_\_\_, for they will be filled

6 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the \_\_\_ of heaven

11 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the \_\_\_

13 So in everything, do to \_\_\_ what you would have them do to you

14 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to \_\_\_

15 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to \_\_\_ from you.

### DOWN

1 You are the \_\_\_ of the world

2 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; \_\_\_ and the door will be opened to you

3 Do not store up for yourselves \_\_\_ on earth

4 Blessed are the \_\_\_, for they will be called children of God

7 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to \_\_\_

8 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be \_\_\_

9 Love your enemies and pray for those who \_\_\_ you

10 \_\_\_ are the merciful, for they will receive mercy

12 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will \_\_\_ God

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### The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma

PO Box 492

Folsom, CA 95630

916/608-4866

#### Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230

Randy Clark: 916/939-5066

Dan Hamilton: 916/933-3569

Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048

David Posey: 530/676-9514

#### Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436

Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320

David Byrd: 916/985-6564

Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902

Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689

John Daniels: 916/985-3090

Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115

Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071

Steven Doty: 916/933-5004

Eric Fields: 916/817-6495

David Main: 650/292-5417

Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140

Dane Scott: 916/631-7221

Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748

Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170

Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

#### Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514

[dp@folsomchurch.com](mailto:dp@folsomchurch.com)

[dpose@pacbell.net](mailto:dpose@pacbell.net)

#### 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](http://www.folsomchurch.com)



You cannot plough a field by  
turning it over in your mind.

**Author Unknown**

# 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.  
Romel Dazon 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.