

View

September 2, 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 (TBA)

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 Don Alexander (Amy Borcher's father), Bill Cain (Trey's father), Belle Smith, Naomi Fannin, Tom Royston, Dylan Franklin, Patsy Main (David's mother), Herman Ward, Julie Baumgarten, Kathy Wilson, Sharon Jones and Carl and Arlene Hanson. Keep Myrtle Farrell, Gwen's mother, in mind.

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

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

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. Kaitlin Reagan, Tyler Brown and Jamie Wilson.

Out of Town

Dennis and Sharron Wade are in San Diego. His mother is not expected to live through the weekend.

Jared and Sarah Cain, Adam and Heather Rico are out of town on a camping trip.

Brett, Valerie and Lily are at Yosemite for the weekend.

Forrest and Chandra Brown are out of town.

Young People's Meeting

There will be a young people's meeting at the Veitschegger's after evening services on September 9th.

Group Meetings

Group 3, Steve Dickey and Bryan Byrd's group will be meeting on September 9th after the morning services at Bryan and Janet Byrd's home.

Group 4, David Byrd and John Daniel's group will be meeting on September 9th at 11:30 am at the home of David and Heather Byrd.

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!**

Is Only One Church Right?

by Sewell Hall (Part 2)

Last month, we observed from Ephesians 4:4-5 that “there is one body...one Lord, one faith and one baptism.” That one body is Christ’s church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18), composed of all persons in all the world who have been saved by Jesus Christ. He adds all who are saved to His church (Acts 2:47).

The one church is not a denomination, nor is it a collection of denominations. It is not even a collection of local churches; it is the body of all saved individuals, and it has no earthly organization. One does not have to investigate all of the churches in the world to find the Lord’s church. Any believer in Jesus Christ who follows the simple instructions of Acts 2:38 will be saved and added to it (Acts 2:41, 47). He has no other decision to make or joining to do.

Membership in a local church is another matter. The Ethiopian who was converted on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8) was surely saved and added to the church. But he was not a member of any local church; he had left Jerusalem and there was no local church in Ethiopia at that time. The examples in the book of Acts clearly indicate that the Lord intended for saved individuals in a community to have fellowship in a local church. Such a church (assembly) was invariably organized when several individuals in a community were saved. In this sense there were many churches—we read of seven in the province of Asia (Revelation 1-3). Local churches were identified as “churches of God” (1 Corinthians 11:16) and “churches of Christ” (Romans 16:16). They were, however, independent of each other, each exercising autonomy over its own affairs.

Are All Local Churches Right?

If you should ask the leaders of most local churches, regardless of the name they wear, if theirs is a church of God or a church of Christ, they would say, “Yes.” But sadly enough, more questions must be asked before we affiliate with such a church. We must be careful not to

compromise our membership in the “one body” by affiliating with a local group that would make substitutions for the “ones” of Ephesians 4. That passage not only states that there is one body; it also says, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (vs. 5). In view of this, it is important to ask the following questions:

WHO IS THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH? If we are informed of a president, general overseer, archbishop, superintendent, pope or any other human being or legislative assembly exercising authority over the faith of that congregation, we must avoid that church. There is “one Lord” (Ephesians 4:5), and that one Lord is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6). “He is the head of the body the church” (Colossians 1:18). To acknowledge any other head or religious lord is to be guilty of disloyalty to Him. Religious titles of any kind violate the unique position of Jesus who said, “Do not be called ‘Rabbi’: for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ” (Matthew 23:8-10).

SHOW ME A COPY OF YOUR CREED. If a manual, catechism, discipline, confession of faith, or any other book written by a mere man or group of men is offered, that church must be rejected. There is “one faith” (creed) according to the same verse (Ephesians 4:5). That faith is the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27). No clergy class is authorized to hand down official interpretations of God’s word.

WHAT BAPTISM DO YOU RECOGNIZE? If the answer is: “We will accept just any baptism—immersion, sprinkling or pouring,” you will need to avoid that church. Ephesians 4:5 says that there is “one baptism” and according to Romans 6:4, it is a burial. If the answer is: “Any baptism administered by one who has been ordained or licensed by our church,” then you can know you are in the wrong place because the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5 is baptism “in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38), not by the authority of a church—any church.

IS THIS CHURCH AFFILIATED WITH ANY DENOMINATION OR ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES? Again, if the answer is “Yes,” you are in the wrong place. Jesus did not establish a denomination. A denomination, by the very definition of the word, is a division; and Jesus prayed for unity of all believers in Himself and in the Father (John 17:20).

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE CHURCH? Although it is considered arrogant, narrow-minded and bigoted to say that there is only one right church, anyone who says otherwise contradicts the plain teaching of Scripture. Anyone, referring to anything other than local assemblies, who say that there is more than one right church is speaking of something other than the church which Jesus established. Any “church” other than the “one body” of Ephesians 4:4 is a plant that the heavenly Father did not plant, and it will be rooted up (Matthew 15:13).

He Knows You by Your Name

by Randy Hohf

John 10 is such a great chapter. Here Jesus describes himself as the “door” through which the sheep enter into abundant and eternal life (Jn 10.7-10), and as the “Good Shepherd” who leads them in and out of the sheepfold and into pasture (vs. 11-14). The sheep hear his voice (vs.3) and know his voice (vs. 4), and the shepherd knows his sheep by name (vs. 3, 27), and the sheep know him (vs.14). He lays down his life for his sheep (vs. 11,15), and no one will snatch them out of his hand (vs.28-29).

There is much to contemplate here, but what stands out to me right now is that our shepherd knows all of his sheep by name. The Good Shepherd has intimate knowledge of his sheep. A name is expressive of who a person is. When we hear someone’s name, we do not think of the sound of the word, nor of the arrangement of the individual letters (such as R-A-N-D-Y), but of the person and who they are. There must be something really special about this, for God said

to Moses: *“I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight”* (Ex 33.12,17). He seems to be saying that Moses was special in God’s sight. It suggests friendship and intimacy. God knows us fully (1 Cor 13.12). This is likewise reminiscent of Ps 139, in which David speaks of God searching and knowing him, of God knowing his words before they are spoken (vs.1-4), of God knowing and forming him while David was yet in his mother’s womb (vs.13-16). David said that such knowledge is too wonderful for him (vs.6). How true! To contemplate God knowing us by name is at the same time both frightening and comforting, both humbling and elevating. It can be frightening that God knows my every thought and motive, yet comforting that he loves me anyway – not just mankind, but me personally. It is humbling to think that the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe would care enough about lowly me to know my name, yet elevating to know that I am so important to him.

Think about how difficult it is for us to remember names. How many times has someone been introduced to you by name, which only a few minutes later you have forgotten? How embarrassing it is when you have to ask someone their name when you should know it! On the other hand, how does it make you feel when someone you hardly know and perhaps have not seen for a long time remembers your name? Doesn’t it make you feel like you are important at least to that person? We all love to hear our name spoken, don’t we? What if the President were to see you in a crowd and call out your name? Wouldn’t that make you feel good? If you are one of Jesus’ sheep, then he knows your name and he will never forget it. You are vitally important to Jesus. He knows far more about you than simply your name, however. He knows you, through and through. He watches over you as a shepherd watches his sheep, and he will let no one snatch you out of his hand.



“Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

- Matthew 5:16

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.