

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ, 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

September 30, 2007

Come to the Meeting! *Pretty Please?*

Sometimes — OK, *most* of the time — preachers and elders try to persuade members of the church to attend an upcoming meeting by making them feel as guilty as possible if they choose not to attend. Clearly, our aim in doing that is to make them feel really bad if they are doing anything other than attending the meeting (unless they are on their “death bed,” of course.)

I am going to dispense with that tactic (at least for now) and try to encourage you to make whatever preparation you need to make so that you can be here for Ed Harrell’s meeting on October 8-10th.

Ed has the credibility to speak on historical issues, to say the least. He has a Ph.D. in history and was a professor at the University of Alabama and Auburn University and has written seven books on historical issues. He has also recently completed a textbook for use in history classes entitled “Unto a Good Land.” But that’s not why you should come to hear what he has to say.

He is also very easy to listen to, with an outstanding sense of humor. The hour will be over before you know it and you will thoroughly enjoy listening to him speak. But that’s not why you should be here on October 8th to 10th either.

Ed has served for many years as a local gospel preacher and as an elder and has held countless gospel meetings like this one; he is an outstanding Bible student. His lessons are challenging and biblical and relevant to what you are facing day-in and day-out. But even that’s not the main reason you should come to this meeting this time.

“...there are too many men and women in the church today who are advocating ‘thinking outside the box’ who have never taken the time and effort to learn what is *inside* the box.”

I believe you will want to be here because Ed is going to address a topic that every leader, every potential leader, every mother and father, and every young person vitally needs to hear. He will be talking about the Bible and why we should believe it, obey it and follow it. You’ll want to make sure your children hear this. If you can persuade any of your friends or relatives who are not Christians to come on October 8th to 10th — or even just one of those evenings — do it. They’ll hear an important lesson on why obedience to the words of the Bible is important.

Some of what brother Harrell says will be “inside stuff.” That is, some of it will be directed toward those who have been members of the church for a while. But that’s OK; he will do it with words that anyone can understand, and with a sense of humor.

Will some be offended? Possibly, but Ed is sensitive to what “others” believe; and his approach makes it hard to feel offended.

Many years ago, I heard Ed preach and he directed his comments to preachers. He mentioned something preachers ought to be doing that I wasn’t doing at the time. I almost got offended, but his approach softened the blow. The bottom line was that I heard and considered what he said and decided it was true. And that’s the point, isn’t it? To hear and consider?

Don’t be put off by the title of his series: “Christian Primitivism.” That’s just a scholarly way of talking about first century Christianity. The key to his subject is in the subtitle: “Thinking ‘Inside the Box’ About Restoring New Testament Christianity.” Ed’s view is that there are too many men and women in the church today who are advocating “thinking outside the box” who have never taken the time and effort to learn what is *inside* the box. You’ll need to be here to find out why.

Don’t miss it. I think you’ll be glad you came.

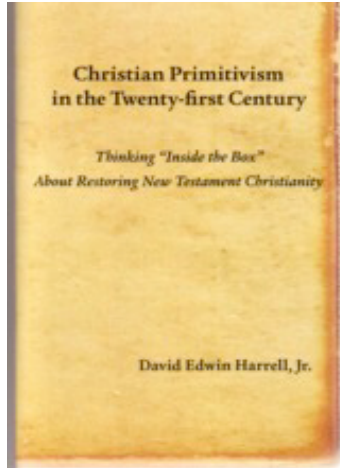
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Book Review

Every member at Folsom Point and each visitor who attends our meeting on October 8-10 will receive a copy of "Christian Primitivism in the Twenty-First Century" by Ed Harrell. The following is an adaptation of a review of the book by a fellow preacher, Alan Cornett from Wilsonville, Alabama.

Ed Harrell is, of course, retired professor of History at Auburn University, and a recognized authority on not only Restoration History, but also on 20th Century Pentecostalism.

Brother Harrell has been refining the arguments he utilizes in this book over the past few years. I've heard pieces of it in lessons both in the US and in India. The book is built around three propositions.



Proposition 1: Regarding Apostolic Authority

Restorationist, primitivist religious thinking assumes that the Apostles were given specific authority to define doctrine and set churches in order.

Proposition 2: Regarding Common Sense Hermeneutics

Restorationist, primitivist religious thinking assumes that human beings, through the use of a common sense possessed by all, have the ability to read texts and reach common conclusions about meanings. This empirical, logical type of thinking is the basis for all public (as opposed to private and subjective) human understanding.

Proposition 3: Regarding Local Churches (Congregationalism)

Restorationist, primitivist religious thinking assumes that the practices of local churches in New Testament days rested on apostolic authority and that the ordering of churches was intentionally designed by God to promote uniformity among Christians.

Obviously, he expands on these propositions, and demonstrates the validity of these underlying assumptions in restorationist thinking. It's a small book, but I think it's one of those things that ought to be in anyone's library who desires to think seriously about how we ought to serve God and approach Scripture.

via Theosebes
www.theosebes.blogspot.com

What Ed Harrell says about his book...

"In this brief study, I suggest three concepts that are fundamental to the idea of restoring New Testament churches. I concede that an emphasis on "getting it right" — on conscientiously trying to emulate the worship, organization, and work of the New Testament churches — rests on important assumptions. If you do not understand and embrace these assumptions, the narrow, even legalistic exegesis of biblical primitivists is divisive and sectarian, rooted in the traditions of a particular religious movement and outmoded hermeneutical principles. However, if the three assumptions discussed here seem true and reliable, the meticulous concern of restorers to "get it right" is an obvious and necessary consequence."

Ed Harrell
Jacksonville, Florida

Agenda

The Lord's Day, September 30, 2007

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching

Sermon: "The Story: Raiders of the Real Ark"

• Preaching: David Posey

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Singing, Preaching

• Sermon: Jeff Herrin

5:30 PM: Congregational Singing (no classes)

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

10 AM Bible Class: A Study of James. At building.

7:30 PM Bible Classes

• 18 months through 5th Grade

Summer Program: Preaching (Auditorium)

• Nathanael May on Philemon

• David Sanderson on Jude

Gospel Meeting

David Edwin Harrell

Jacksonville, Florida

Christian Primitivism

Thinking

"Inside the Box" about Restoring New Testament Christianity

Titles

"The Principle of
Apostolic Authority"

"Biblical Hermeneutics:
Common Sense
Interpretation"

"New Testament
Congregations: What They Were and Why It Matters"

October 8-10, 2007

7:30 PM

**Folsom Point
church of Christ
900 E. Natoma
Folsom, California**

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The church of Christ

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM
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