

View

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

February 24, 2008

Getting to Know You

“Getting to know you,
Getting to know all about you.”

You might recognize those words as lyrics from the popular musical, “The King and I,” but they could also serve us well here at the Folsom Point congregation. We need to get to know each other better. Out of all of our members, do you know who is a twin, who fought in World War II, who is a CHP officer and who lived in Paris? More importantly, do you know who serves as a caregiver or who has an elderly parent who lives in a care facility?

Naturally, we realize that our most important relationship is with God. Our top priority should be improving our relationship with Him and getting to know Him better. But, we’re also told to have a strong relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Romans 12:10-13). The very terms “brothers” and “sisters” remind us that we’re a family. Do we know our spiritual family members as well as we know our physical family members? It can be difficult with the large family that we have at Folsom Point, but there are some tools that can help us.

“... OUT OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, DO YOU KNOW WHO IS A TWIN, WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II, WHO IS A CHP OFFICER AND WHO LIVED IN PARIS?...”

Start with the printed directory. Go through it and highlight the people that you don’t know. Make a list of the people that you can’t picture in your mind, or would like to know better.

If you don’t know who someone is, another tool you can use is the picture board in the lobby to get a visual of that person. You can also use the picture board in the reverse way to put a name to a familiar face. In addition, we have a few printed copies of the picture directory in binders — if you’d like to borrow one and familiarize yourself with the faces of Folsom Point at home.

Once you know what someone looks like, make it a point to seek them out and say “hello.” Tell them you’re trying to get to know people better, and have a conversation. Where do they live? What type of work do they do? Of course, the best way to get to know someone is to show hospitality and invite them to your home for a meal or get together at a restaurant. Either way, it doesn’t have to be fancy. The point is to spend time with each other outside of the church building and get better acquainted.

Other tools that we can use include the group meetings and in-home Bible studies. Take advan-

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tage of the quarterly group meetings in member's homes. It's a great opportunity to share a meal and catch up with those we may not always have a chance to chat with at worship services. Likewise, Bible classes at someone's house give us a chance to interact spiritually and socially with a smaller group and spend more quality time together.

If we use these resources and move beyond the simple "Hello" twice a week at the building, it will not only make our family stronger, but it will make it easier for us to help each other get to heaven.

Bryan Byrd

Could this Happen Here?

"I was lost, but you were in a hurry..."

I attended your services one Sunday evening. You wouldn't remember me. I was there looking for something and I think I would have found it if you had not been in such a hurry.

You sang hymns about a loving Lord. I felt a tight choking sensation, and my heart beat faster. Your preacher's message was thrilling. I realized I was lost and from the way he spoke, it seemed important to have a Savior.

The preacher finished his appeal and asked you to stand and sing another of those beautiful songs you know so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and wished I knew the joy of which you sang.

I was about to answer the call of the Gospel, when I heard a commotion beside me. When I looked around, you were picking up toys and telling your children to get ready to leave. In front of me were whisperers and gigglers. A couple had already headed for the door. The ushers rushed about stacking chairs and opening doors. Beside me, you were frowning at your watch as if time were running out.

Seeing what I saw, I didn't care to look anymore. My eyes burned, my throat hurt, my feet wouldn't walk down the aisle. I could see that you really didn't care. This salvation the preacher had been telling about was not as important to you as getting out "on time." I only wanted to get away.

I waited until services were over and walked out among you — alone unnoticed, and lost.

Lost, because you were in a hurry. Lost, because it appeared you didn't really care if I was saved or not.

Anonymous

The church of Christ

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Elders

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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

Webmaster: Richard Harvey

Agenda

The Lord's Day, February 24, 2008

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

● Preaching: David Posey

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

● Sermon: Romans, David Posey

5:30 PM: Bible Classes for ages 18 mos., & up

Auditorium: What Jesus Wants to Know (John Daniels)

Room 11-12: The Parables (David Byrd)

Room 8: Seed-Sowers (Dennis Wade & Cameron Carrozza)

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

10 AM "Jesus on Relationships": Auditorium, 10 AM

7:30 PM, Bible classes for ages 18 mos. and up,

Auditorium: The Sayings of Jesus (Rich Mowrer)

Room 11-12: Parenting by the Book (David Posey & Dennis Wade)

Notes

Most sermons are available in MP3 format on our website (www.folsomchurch.com) or on CD (see a deacon).

A word to preachers and teachers

There are a couple of general principles that I try to follow in my preaching, though I am far from 100% successful. First, I want to make sure that I am communicating that this is God's world, and thus center every sermon on God, not man. The practical effect of that is to present solutions to the problems that we face in terms of what God thinks and how God wants us to deal with them.

A second principle I try to follow is to be practical; that is, to point out that the word of God (His divine power) has, as Peter says, "granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3)

But this latter principle can lead those of us who preach and teach down a wrong path, if we're not careful. In "An Efficient Gospel?," Tim Keel offers the following warning:

In a modern world, we tend to reduce the complexity and diversity of the Scriptures to simple systems, even when our systems flatten the diversity and integrity of the biblical witness. We reduce our sermons to consumer messages that reduce God to a resource that helps the individual secure a reduced version of the "abundant life" Jesus promised (John 10:10)

The last thing we want to do is to minimize the meaning of the gospel in any way. The gospel is good news, but it is good news primarily because it offers a way of salvation. Salvation implies that one is lost and needs saving.

The gospel is not just a handbook for getting along better in the world. The gospel assumes our "lostness" and provides a way to be found (saved). When our lessons, presumably *from* the gospel, become nothing more than a reduction of the gospel to neat little "take home" messages, we have betrayed our trust as preachers and teachers. It struck me that this may well be a modern version of being "ashamed" of the gospel (see Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8, 12).

It seems to me that this point needs to be especially impressed on those who are facing the pressures commensurate with starting a career and raising a family while trying to live as faithful Christians. It's easy to fall into the trap that Keel mentions in his book: to reduce the "complexity and diversity of the Scriptures to simple systems...consumer messages that reduce God to a resource." This time of life is a time when one is most concerned with seeing the scriptures as "relevant" and thus people in this age-group may tune in more readily to sermons and teaching that is more man-centered than God-centered.

For those of us who preach and teach (including some in this time of life), the challenge is to present practical and helpful material without minimizing the gospel message. We can and will do that only when we return time and again to the basic premise that we are all lost sinners who need to be saved. All our practical lessons must be subsumed under that basic point.

That means our sermons and lessons will balance practicality — the usefulness of the ideas presented — within the context of the gospel message: God loves us, even though we "fall short of His glory" and has shown us the way to a more abundant life (meaning a place of safety in His kingdom).

The practical conclusions we draw may or may not make our life on earth better; they may or may not solve our problems. Embracing the gospel may not make you a better business man or more financially prosperous — after all, adherence to the gospel has, historically, caused a much earthly pain as pleasure.

But the gospel will always humble us and make us more godly because it always leads us to the same conclusion, regardless of our station in life: that without God, we are nothing.

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