

View

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

March 30, 2008

Tim Stevens' Letter to the Church

March 25, 2008

To our brothers and sisters at the Folsom Point church of Christ:

My wife, Vicki, and I are looking forward to being with you all very soon. I appreciate the invitation from the elders at Folsom Point, to work with the congregation in an effort of improving ourselves as worshippers — with special emphasis toward the singing of praises to God, our Father!

As we continue to assemble together on various occasions for the

purpose of worshipping God, ALL aspects of our worship — the singing, the prayers, the

teaching, (and on the Lord's day, the partaking of the Lord's Supper and the giving of our means), must ALL be done in the best possible way. Obviously, that's the way God wants it! Since the beginning, God, our Creator, has always demanded that His people offer Him the very best in their sacrifices, and it's no different today among God's people. After all, we do belong to Him! David, the sweet singer of Israel wrote, "*Make a joyful shout*

“SINCE THE BEGINNING, GOD, OUR CREATOR, HAS ALWAYS DEMANDED THAT HIS PEOPLE OFFER HIM THE VERY BEST IN THEIR SACRIFICES, AND IT'S NO DIFFERENT TODAY AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.”

to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations” Psa. 100:1-5.

The most important part of our singing is the fact that God has made singing an avenue of praise

for Him (“*Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name*” Psa.

30:4). The singing of

psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) gives us the perfect opportunity to express to Him and to others around us, just how much we think of Him and our salvation. Those taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity, will, most certainly, accomplish two things: (1) God will be glorified! (2) They, the worshipper, will be edified! We should ever be grateful that He has given us the way

and the means of accomplishing this. The Lord willing, I'll have more to say about this subject in the lesson I've prepared for the Sunday morning worship period.

While at Folsom Point, it's imperative that I meet and work with ALL of those who are currently song worship leaders, and even those who are interested in becoming one. **No congregation will improve in its singing without first having leaders who are committed to seeing the need and benefit of song worship.** Those leaders with that commitment and understanding will be present at all the classes that are planned by the elders. However, if someone has difficulty in attending one or all of the evening classes, I'll be willing and happy to work with them either privately or with other individuals (even non-leaders) during the day.

Even though I'll be working with the song worship leaders each evening, separate from the entire congregation, I do strongly encourage the ladies and children to attend the song leading classes. This class will not only benefit the leaders, but will benefit all who participate regularly in the singing during the worship assemblies. Everyone will have a better sense of what the song worship leader is trying and hoping to accomplish when he directs them in song worship. They'll understand the importance of starting each song on the right pitch and keeping the correct tempo throughout the song. It will certainly make a difference in your singing of praises to God!

Again, we look forward to being with you.

Sincerely in Him,

Tim Stevens

The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
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Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
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Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514

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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
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Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

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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, March 30, 2008

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

Sermon: The Story

☉ Preaching: David Posey

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

No classes tonight.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

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

Final classes of the Winter Quarter

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).

J.W. McGarvey: On the Selection of Elders

It has long been a question whether church officers should be selected by the congregation at large, or by the Evangelist charged with effecting the organization of the church. There is but little said on the subject in the Scriptures, but those who are willing to be guided by the slightest indications of the will of God in preference to their own judgment, will find sufficient to satisfy them.

We have only one example on record, in which we are distinctly told what part was taken by the congregation, and what by the ordaining officers. This is the case of the seven deacons of the church in Jerusalem. The Apostles called together "the multitude of the disciples," and said, "Look you out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business," Acts 6: 2, 3. The selection, was made by the multitude, and the appointment by the apostles. The distinction made between these two terms should not be overlooked. The term *appoint* is sometimes understood as including the selection, but in the style of the apostles it means merely induction into office, and is distinguished from the selection which precedes it.

Now, in the case of the Elders in the churches of Lycaonia and Pisidia, it is said that Paul and Barnabas "ordained them"; or, to express it more accurately, "appointed them." Acts xiv: 23. The word here rendered appoint (*cheirotoneo*) is not the one so rendered in Acts vi: 3; but in such a connection its current meaning is about the same. The part per-

formed by the apostles in this case being the same as in the case of the deacons, it is fair to presume that the part performed by the people was also the same, and that Luke fails to mention it because, having previously stated the process of selecting one class of church officers, he could presume that his readers would understand that the same process was observed in the present instance. Indeed, the nature of the case is such that we would of necessity so understand it, unless expressly informed that the process was different.

From these premises, we conclude that all church officers were selected by the congregation at large; and this conclusion is confirmed by the earliest uninspired history. Clement of Rome declares it a rule handed down from the apostles, that church officers "should be filled according to the judgment of approved men, with the consent of the whole community." This would indicate that the judgment of the most approved men in the congregation was given, perhaps in the way of nominations, and that the whole congregation was called upon to express their approval or disapproval. But whether nominations were made in the apostolic age can not be very certainly determined. The only certain fact is that the people elected their officers, and, therefore, whatever mode of procedure in conducting the elections seems most prudent to each individual church, is authorized by the Scriptures.

A Treatise on the Eldership (1870)