

# View

*A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ, 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA 95630*

June 22, 2008

## The worst of times?

*Don't let the culture get the best of you...maintain your hope!*

This has been “one of those weeks.” Of course, the worst part was saying goodbye to our four grandchildren — and Dave and Carly, of course — as they left to live in Connecticut via Baltimore. When you're used to seeing your grandkids at least two or three times a week... well, this is going to be hard. Amyla has already called us twice (as of Thursday). I think she took it hardest.

But then there was the culture stuff — homosexual “marriage” (those are “raised eyebrow” quote marks because I don't really believe homosexuals can lawfully “marry”), the global warming *religion* and 17 16 year old girls getting pregnant on purpose in Gloucester, Mass — for the umpteenth time in my life, I'm saying to myself, “What is the world coming to!”

I suppose these things are related. With our little ones heading off to live 3,000 miles away, perhaps I'm reacting to our reduced

level of influence in their lives. I'm concerned for their future — always have been, but now that concern is coupled with less control. (I hasten to add that I have full confidence in

Dave and Carly, but I have always felt that the more our children and grandchildren are around good people, the better).

So, at least for now, the gay community has gotten what they have always wanted — ascension to “normalcy.” That's what the gay “marriage” thing is all about. It is no secret that homosexuals are extremely promiscuous in their behavior; statistics bear that out. While there are some who may want to “settle down,” I doubt that things have changed that much in the last few years. It's doubtful

that most homosexuals have magically become “monogamous” all of a sudden. It's not about relationships; it's about normalizing evil — gaining the same level of acceptance as a mar-



ried couple. Unfortunately, unless some legislation is passed to turn it around, “gay marriage” is here to stay.

Then there is the global warming issue that everyone seems to be embracing. I’m extremely skeptical. Its evangelists are like the evolutionists — there is nothing to prove that it really exists, just speculation that has become “science.” It’s religion and it’s big business (my “if you don’t understand something look for the financial interest” antennae are up). I don’t know all of the ramifications of this extreme green push, but don’t be deceived — at the end of the day, it is telling us that the world is fragile and ultimately in man’s control. I don’t believe that for a moment. God created the earth to be inhabited (Isa. 45:18). And He is in control of it.

The news out of Gloucester (pronounced “Glosh-ter, I think) is very depressing. At least some of the 17 girls that got pregnant did so because they thought it would be “neat.” When they got the results from a test performed by the school health office, they gave each other high fives, like it was a sports event. How can anyone in this time — with all the “health education” classes (ha ha) — not be aware of the difficulty and sober responsibility of being a parent? Not to speak of the ignorance of thinking the children don’t need a father in their lives. These young women said they wanted to do this so they could raise the kids “together.”

Oh my...

But, there is hope. There is always hope. If I had been older in the 60’s, I probably would have thought that the moral world as we knew it was coming to an end. To some degree that was true — the wheels came off the cart of authority in the 60’s never to be fully reattached; but some things are better now than they were then. At least, some of the perversions are

less *public*. Things always tend to go to one extreme and then the moral pendulum swings back the other way. Unfortunately, though, it never swings back to where it should be, though. Ground is lost in every battle. Every society has always moved away from God the longer it exists. America is no different.

But there is hope. God has given us the opportunity to live above the culture and in spite of it. He has created this wonderful kingdom — a kingdom not this world — in which we can live “above the world” where Christ is (Col. 3:1ff). He has seated us in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), and our lives are defined and shaped by Christ (Romans 8:28-30). Christ told us a long time ago that we are to be a “counter culture” (see the Sermon on the Mount) and that’s our task in the world.

That’s the hope I have for my grandchildren — that they will embrace the hope offered Christ and choose His world instead of the flawed one offered by men who set their minds on the things of the earth instead of the things above (Col. 3:1-4).

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# Agenda

## The Lord's Day, June 22, 2008

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

● Preaching: David Posey, The Story

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

### Classes @ 5:30 PM

Auditorium, I John

• Teacher: Dennis Wade

Room 11-12

Characters of the Bible

• Teacher: Bryan Byrd.

## Monday to Friday: VBS

10 AM to Noon

## Wednesday, June 25, 2008

### 7:30 PM, Quarterly Singing

#### Notes

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

## The New Creature

By Robert F. Turner

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17). Obviously his physical characteristics have not changed, and one does not "partake of the divine nature" in its essence. We suggest a comparison study of verses in the frequently parallel letters of Ephesians and Colossians as a clue to this "new" and different man.

Eph. 4:17-32 defines the changed man. "Walk not as the Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.." "but ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him.." "that ye put off ... the old man ... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind...etc."

Now, compare this with Col. 3:8-17, "Put off anger, wrath ... seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him..."

I have emphasized words pertaining to the common thought: the new man thinks differently, i.e., he has new and different standards; one change has taken place in his mind.

The heart (mind) is not different through miraculous operation, but by teaching, hearing, learning (Jn. 6:45). But this "learning" is not simply the accumulation of information ... stored so it may be repeated upon examination. The "spirit of the mind" has been affected or "constrained" by our recognition of Christ's love for us (2 Cor. 5:12), so that vanity has been replaced by humility and dependence (Cf. Phil. 2:5; 3:15). Expositors say, "It is necessary, therefore, to take "pneuma" (spirit) here as our spirit ... the higher faculty in man.... that makes him most akin to God." Without debating the intricacies of mind-spirit, the man is "new" because his understanding has affected his desires, and the new heart bears fruit for God.

Both passages (Eph. and Col.) tell us that the whole of the "new man" includes his conduct. "Just so the heart is right" is an idle gesture. We can not know one's heart, but "by their fruits" men are known (Matt. 7:20). Remission of sins, and heaven, are at the point of doing (Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10), and short of this point there is no new creature (Matt. 7:21).



Via North Charlottesville church of Christ Website  
<http://www.uvachurch.com/index.html>

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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.

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