

# View

DECEMBER 6, 2009

"Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green;  
something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen."

## Calendar

Group 8 Meeting at Hank Wilson's home  
Sunday, December 13th, 6:30 - 8 pm (after evening services)

Group 3 meets today after morning services at Jared and  
Sarah Cain's home. See David Byrd.

## New-Millennium Challenges

### Acceptable Sins

"Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people."

II Timothy 3:1-5, *The Message*

The question, "what is this world coming to?" has never been more relevant than it is today in the good old USA. It's fascinating to think that the statement was probably coined in an era when the world seemed pretty sane and moral, by today's standards. It wasn't that many years ago when saying the word "pregnant" was a no-no.

"BY WINKING AT THESE SINS AND OFFERING  
A RELAXED VERSION OF REDEMPTION, EVEN  
CHRISTIANS MAY BEGIN TO EMBRACE THE  
IDEA THAT ADULTERY IS "NOT SO BAD; AF-  
TER ALL, EVERYONE IS DOING IT."

Paul told us 2,000 years ago what the world always "comes to." It comes to all those evils mentioned in II Tim. 3:1-5. And Peter says it's coming to nothing: "all its works will be burned up" (II Peter 3:10).

Meanwhile, the beat goes on. A headline on the front a men's fashion magazine, referencing an article inside, suggests that "everyone" will cheat on his spouse someday, so "what are you waiting for?" Tiger Woods, the golf icon, with the calculated thick coating over his public persona, is the latest celebrity to be exposed for what he really is. He has gone "the way of all flesh," as Samuel Butler puts in his novel by the same name.

## The church of Christ

meeting at 900 E. Natoma  
PO Box 492  
Folsom, CA 95630  
916/608-4866

### Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230  
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066  
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048  
David Posey: 530/676-9514  
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

### Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436  
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320  
David Byrd: 916/985-6564  
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774  
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  
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495  
David Main: 650/292-5417  
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140  
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221  
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748  
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170  
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

### Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514  
dpaulposey@mac.com

### Service Times

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)

But Paul said it: "For people will be...addicted to lust" (*II Tim. 3:4, The Message, a paraphrase by Eugene Petersen*). When put that way, it sounds even uglier than the more conventional translation, "lovers of pleasure." The latter seems almost too tame for today. Is being a "lover of pleasure" such a bad thing? Yes, when paired with "rather than lovers of God." Clearly, that's a very bad thing.

*The Message* version says, "allergic to God." That's a contemporary way to think about it. All of us know what an allergy is. At best it makes it makes us sneezy; at its worst, though, an allergy can kill you. People who practice the things that Paul mentions in II Tim. 3:1-5 are people who either have no interest in God or who have become "allergic" to Him. God makes them as miserable as a man with hay fever in a field of ragweed.

Adultery has long since lost its stigma, at least in the public square. Bill Clinton, the most openly adulterous president ever, has never been more popular. While Monica Lewinsky is in the third paragraph of his book (*I'm told*), he still garners \$250,000 per hour-long speech.

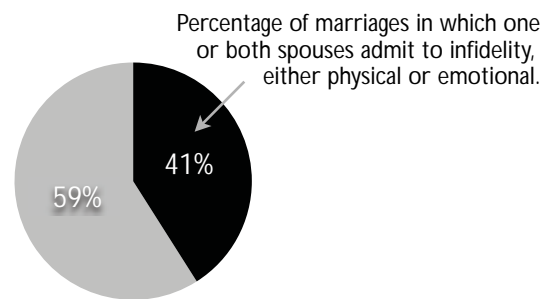
If we're not there already, we are moving toward the notion that adultery is inevitable and not such big deal after all. Even many Christians routinely make entertainment choices that include adultery as a regular feature. In many cases, it is supremely "understandable" and therefore, forgivable (sans confession of guilt). Why? Because the wife is "cold" while the husband is "passionate" and the mistress "takes his breath away." How romantic can you get?

But adultery is not a romanticized matter for the families affected by it. Tiger Woods wife is not romanticizing it. Children whose parents divorce because of unfaithfulness are not romanticizing it. And God certainly does not romanticize and excuse it.

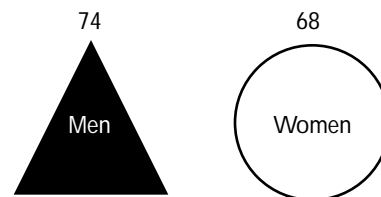
Adultery is devastating; it is a violation of the most sacred promise you make to another human being. The Bible calls it "treachery" or "violence" (Malachi 2:13-16). It is the only action that gives a spouse the right to end a marriage that is otherwise to be a permanent relationship (Mt. 19:9).

In modern America, sexual sins may be the primary reason that people lose their souls in the end. Yet, it is the sin that is most quickly forgotten

## Adultery Statistics



Percentage of men and women who say they would have an affair if they knew they would never get caught.



and forgiven. It is likely, as one sports commentator said on Thursday, that instead of canceling Tiger's endorsements, we are likely to see Nike ads in the future that trumpet his redemption. That "redemption" will be the public's forgiveness of Tiger, irrespective of whether he repents or even acknowledges his sin. It's what we, the public, do for the celebrities we love (some of us anyway): Kennedy, Letterman, Clinton...

I'm not suggesting that Tiger, or anyone else who commits these personal atrocities, and that's what they are, are beyond redemption. Anyone can be forgiven of anything, if they have the right attitude and take the steps God outlines in His word. But by winking at these sins and offering a relaxed version of redemption, even Christians may begin to embrace the idea that adultery is "not so bad; after all, everyone is doing it."

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