

Group 4 - will meet on Aug 15th after the morning service at Barrett & Aimee Cain's home.

Refuge for Troubled Souls

"Now my soul is troubled!" he said (John 12:27). He was speaking about the cross that now inevitably lay ahead of him—the hour had finally drawn near. We're not to think he feared loss, for he knew as sure as the world spins around that the cross was his moment of triumph (Jn. 12:31-32; Col. 2:15).

Triumph or not, Gethsemane's mystery makes it clear that the cross for Jesus was no picnic on the Plain of Sharon. So troubled, a cold night when people warmed themselves around fires (John 18:18) and yet Jesus is sweating so profusely that it was falling from him the way heavy drops of blood fall from a wound (Luke 22:44).

"Now my soul is troubled!" And where do his thoughts go immediately?

"What shall I say—'Father, save me from this hour?'" They go to his "Father". Not to "God," though that would have been no crime and certainly it would have been appropriate. His thoughts went to the God he called his "Father". Yes, I can see that the word "father" isn't all sugar and sweetness and that there is authority there as well as affection and warmth but Jesus knew that too; he also knew the appeal of the word "father" (Luke 11:9-13; Mat 7:9-11).

"Now my soul is troubled!" Should he ask his Father to deliver him from the agony of "this hour"? He can't and won't do it and it isn't that he

doubts his Father's love for him. No! He's convinced beyond debate that his Father loves him but he's also convinced beyond debate that he has a destiny and a mission to fulfill for his Father (John 12:27). He doesn't question the love of his Father even though he is sorely troubled nor do we question his love for his Father because his next words are, "Father, glorify your name" (John 12:28).

In joy (Luke 10:21) his thoughts turn to his Father and when his soul is sore troubled he finds refuge in that name "Father". I suppose that's the profound difference between the man Jesus and all other humans; that in his awful trouble his first thought is not rescue but the glorification of his Father. He knows full well how it feels to want to be rescued from agony and plainly says so (Matthew 26:39) but down below his awful pain and mysterious fear there's the heart that wills his Father's will without reservation. What enabled him in that way? His own person and destiny were unique, of course (of course!) but what enabled him to confront his fears, look them right in the eye and brush on past them is what enables lovers everywhere to do a similar thing.

For love of his Father and his Father's purpose Jesus lived in warm, unswerving and God-imitating righteousness [groan, I am so unlike him], saving a world. For love of family and friends people bear profound burdens they wish they didn't have to bear and they carry them not

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
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
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: 916/595-9956
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 916/710-6920
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399
Brett Zugnoni: 916/817-6435

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.

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only willingly but with gladness. What a mixture life is. What amazing “contradictions” we find in every life we come across. Looking at us from our common and universal engagement with sin, “there is no difference for all have sinned.” Looking at us from the perspective of our need we need the refuge of the name “Father”; we need the forgiveness of our sins and we need a profound sense of destiny and mission that means even when life is oppressive, as “the body of Christ,” we’ll glorify that “Father” in his wondrous and generous purpose toward the human family.

"Father!" There's so much in that word and so much hope for the human family.

Jim McGuigan

The Empty Promises of Atheism

Atheism stands opposed to the Bible, God's word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Atheism claims the Bible is self-contradictory and harmful to man. Therefore, atheists reject it and try to get others to reject it as well. So, what does Atheism promise?

Atheism promises us a world without a Creator. In such a world men give homage to man, beast and nature (Rom. 1:18-32). It is a world in which human life is cheap, because, after all, man is just another animal. Abortion and euthanasia are accepted forms of population control, as well as a way to get rid of a "nuisance." Thankfully, the Bible tells us we are created in the image of God, giving us a deeper respect for all human life (Gen. 1:26-27).

Atheism promises us a world without definite standards of right and wrong. Everyone can do what is right in his own eyes (cf. Judges 21:25). In an atheistic world, man is the highest being, answerable only to himself. If a man wants to rape a woman, whose to say he is wrong? If a man wants to kill his neighbor and take his possessions, whose to say he is wrong? Isn't one man's opinion as good as another's? Without a Supreme Being to set the stand of good and evil, man is left to his own devices. Thankfully, God has

given us the Bible, the truth, by which we may be guided (Jn. 17:17; cf. Psa. 119:105).

Atheism promises a world without any hope after this life. It tells us when we die, that's it--no afterlife, no paradise, no heaven--nothing. In this hopeless world, what is the point of doing good? Why not just act out of your own selfish desires? After all, if there is no heaven, there is no hell either. Thankfully, the Word of God teaches there is hope of a better life beyond this world (Mk. 12:18-27; Lk. 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Atheism promises nothing, except corruption and destruction. Its promises are empty: no God, no standard of right and wrong, no hope.

Therefore, let us reject Atheism and accept the bountiful promises of God.

Steven F. Deaton

The Importance of Good Judgment

I made a mistake. It was just a foolish error, one common to young people. “You just used foolish judgment,” my Dad said, “you need to stop and think about what you’re doing.”

Life is full of opportunities for judgments of various sorts—some are little, seemingly insignificant, some are very important and may have long lasting results. Every decision is important, none ever easy.

Judgments follow us wherever we go. The wise man urges us that we pay careful attention to judgments and he says the book of Proverbs is given in order that justice, judgment, equity, knowledge and discretion might prevail in all areas of life, no matter your age. This revelation can make the young man wise, even though he may not yet have much experience with living life.

Your decisions are important. The word of God makes it possible for you to make good decisions,

not foolish ones. But in order to do so, you will have to develop a familiarity with it. Make the word of God part of who you are and what you decide and you will not render foolish judgments.

As you go about your activities today, look for ways to implement God's word; it will help you judge which way to go.

(Proverbs 1:1-7) "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Dee Bowman

MONEY

Money can buy a house, but not a home.

Money can buy a bed, but not sleep.

Money can buy a clock, but not time.

Money can buy a book, but not knowledge.

Money can buy food, but not an appetite.

Money can buy position, but not respect.

Money can buy blood, but not life.

Money can buy medicine, but not health.

Money can buy sex, but not love.

Money can buy insurance, but not safety.

You see, money is not everything.

Where to reach those who are ill or shut-in...

Addresses:

Hospitals:

Mercy Folsom
1650 Creekside Dr., Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 983-7400

Sutter Memorial Hospital
5151 F St, Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 454-3333

Kaiser Permanente Roseville
1600 Eureka Rd, Roseville, CA 95661

Kaiser Permanente Hospital Sacramento
2016 Morse Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 817-5660

UCD Medical Center
2315 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95817
800-2-UC-DAVIS
(916) 734-2011

Marshall Hospital
1100 Marshall Way, Placerville, CA 95667
530-622-1441 or 916-933-0913