

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21

Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders (see page 4) oversee this work and answer only to Christ. The comments in the sermons that you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue, especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You

Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM Classes

Auditorium: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

"Love is An Inside Job"

2 PM Class at the Building

Hebrews (Room 13/14)

5 PM (building): Proverbs

Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday 10 AM

Class will resume on January 28th.

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday of the month

(see Tyler Wade)

Information

Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at www.folsomchurch.com for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password -protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

Children's Classes

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

A Lesson to Learn from a Craftsman

by David Posey

My father was a preacher but also a carpenter — an amazingly good one. Since I didn't get that "gene," I was even more impressed at the work he produced. But what I loved most about his work, was his attitude toward it. To say he was a "perfectionist" doesn't quite catch the spirit of how he looked at his work. That "spirit" was captured for me in a sermon he preached many years ago from I Kings 7.

Hiram of Tyre was hired by Solomon to do some work on the temple. Hiram is described as "full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze" (I Kings 7:14). The text describes the work Hiram did on two bronze pillars that were named *Jachin* and *Boaz*.

As you can see from the image, these pillars were huge, almost 35 feet tall. At the top, at about the 30 foot point, were bronze capitals with lots of detail. This displayed the great skill of Hiram and illustrates Proverbs 22:29,

Do you see a man skillful in his work?

He will stand before kings

But it was I Kings & 7:22 that caught my attention — and this was the point of the sermon: "and on the top of the pillars was lily-work." My dad reminded us that there was really no way to see that lily-work; it was right at the top. So what's the point of going to all that trouble to design something no one can see? There are two reasons and two takeaways:

- (1) It didn't matter who saw the work Hiram did; what mattered was doing it well. Hiram was committed to excellence.

- (2) It's really not true that "nobody saw it." God saw it; the lily-work was for God. This reminds us that if we are going to do anything, do it well. Don't be the man who gets off work at 5:30 but gets home at 4:55. There's a story about two men of equal education who went to work for the railroad. Thirty years later, one of the men was vice president working closely with the president of the railroad. The other man had a good job in the company but did not enjoy the success of his friend. When asked how that happened, the man replied, "John went to work for the railroad; I went to work for \$1.80 an hour."

There's a difference in "going to work" and being committed to the mission. When I first began my career in sales, I created some goals based on the number of sales I wanted to make, and I did well. But I didn't truly excel in the business until I learned that my primary goal was to help people solve a problem.

My father was a problem-solver, was a modern-day Hiram of Tyre. He gave attention to details in his building efforts that most people would never notice. He put the "lily-work" on top of his work. He did that in his work for God, too. He wasn't a Bible scholar or a master teacher. But he worked hard to put the lily-work on his service to God, to go above and beyond what was required to help people serve the Lord.

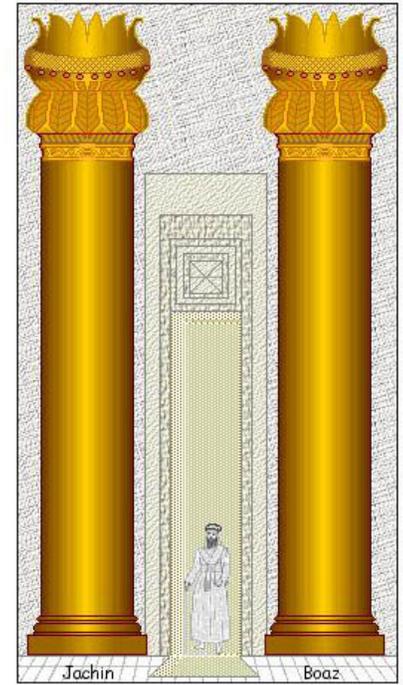
This gives us something to aim for as we enter this new year. No matter what the project — whether at work or school or for the church — before you finish ask, "what do I need to do to put the 'lily-work' on this project?"

That sermon that my dad preached more than 30 years ago has stuck with me. It reminded me of his attitude and how much he stressed the importance of developing a strong work ethic.

But it also reminds me of what God does for us. He has put the lily-work on his work in us, perhaps best described in these words from Ephesians 1:7-8,

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ...

He "lavished" grace upon us. We are his lily-work when we respond to his grace in faith and obedience.



The bronze pillars before the porch of Solomon's Temple. On the right was Jachin; on the left Boaz — I Kings 7:21

LGBTQ

When talking to people about homosexuality and its variants, it's important to distinguish between an individual who is struggling with the issue in his or her own life and the radical LGBTQ *movement*. We should be willing to listen and counsel those who identify themselves as "gay." Most young people know and may well be friends with fellow students or co-workers who are homosexual, or leaning that way.

But the homosexual movement is a different matter altogether. Like similar movements, it has a radical agenda aimed at normalizing abnormal (and sinful) behavior. Look at the history of the movement:

- LGBT 2000: "We just want to live life like everyone else! Leave us alone!"
- LGBT 2010: "We are regular people and just want to be treated equally."
- LGBT 2020: "Every aspect of culture must specifically reflect and affirm my personal identity otherwise I am oppressed."

When reasonable Christians react to news involving homosexuality they are generally reacting to the movement, not necessarily individuals who are quietly living an "alternative," albeit sinful, lifestyle. To be called a "homophobe" because we believe that homosexuality is ungodly is unfair.

Most Christians are willing to let people live their lives the way they see fit, whether we agree with it or not. Most reasonable Christians do not view homosexuality as a more egregious sin than drunkenness, adultery, envy, anger or greed. But no one is explicitly telling us that if we speak out against public drunkenness we are oppressing the alcoholic. And there is no "movement" that I'm aware of that is telling us to affirm the adulterers and if we fail, we are oppressing them.

Let's be clear: homosexuality is explicitly and implicitly prohibited in God's word (see the explicit prohibition in Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 6:9). Homosexuality is a sin because the Bible is clear that sexual relations are only permitted in a lawful marriage. Sexual relations in any other relationship are forbidden.

Some say that Jesus didn't speak about homosexuality and it's true that he never specifically mentions the word. But he does define a proper marriage in Matthew 19:4-6:

Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but

one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

It's impossible to extract a view that same-sex marriage is approved by Jesus from that passage. And Jesus does condemn sexual sin in other places.

The act of homosexuality by an individual is sinful and must be repented of. Being tempted, however, is not a sin; but if it is a constant state of mind, the person should seek help.

The LGBTQ movement is misguided and ungodly since it is trying to normalize something God has specifically prohibited. No ranting, false accusations, rattling of swords, or beating of drums will change God's word on that.

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From Culture Translator

Mental health disorders are on the rise.

Increasing screen time, device-based communication, and lack of sleep are being blamed. It's not all bad news, though: Some believe the spike is due to a generation being more willing than ever to admit when they're struggling, which means parents having regular check-ins with tweens and teens could lead to them getting help long before they reach a crisis. Whether or not we can reverse this trend is yet to be seen.

Hollywood losing ground. TV, film, and music have all gone global, with K-pop groups, foreign films, and Indian children's shows gaining massive audiences. An article states, "BTS's 'Seoul Town Road' (yes, it's a remix) sums up the current moment in entertainment: genre-less, borderless, and completely mystifying to traditional tastemakers." In fact, that's probably exactly what your teens love about their favorite artists.

Clout How does your teen measure "clout"? Kaitlyn Tiffany at *The Atlantic* gives us a history of the catchall phrase that has come to define "influence" for Gen Z. Wanting "clout" in an obvious way is "thirsty" (read: "tacky"), but to have clout is to wield power and esteem that most teens can only dream about. Whether it's having a ton of followers on YouTube or a hundred consecutive streaks on Snapchat, "clout" is where teens minds are at. Remember that, ultimately, this is the same desire for significance and affirmation that adolescents have always longed for—which means it's probably not as weird as it sounds.