

April 11, 2021

The Sunday View

"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 oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments 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 and 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 at the entrance. Thank You

Schedule

The Lord's Day Assemblies

Two assembly opportunities,
inside the building:

9:00 AM / 10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2IYxrl7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey
This World is Not My Home (Seriously)
Revelation 8-9:6

Young People's Classes Today

High School & Up: 5 PM
Contact David Posey for information at
(530) 558-5057

Middle School: 5 PM

Contact Dan Stegall for information
(818) 209-9810

Weekly Classes

Tuesday 10 AM ("Conformed to Christ")
At the Building

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building
For an online class, check with Jack Horak @
jshorak98@gmail.com

Saturday Men's Breakfast
7 AM, second Saturday of the month
Contact Tyler Wade @ tyler@ppldev.com

Additional Classes

There are some smaller classes in progress.
If you are interested in participating in any of them,
please contact David Posey

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>

Classes & Home Studies

We have classes for children from 18 months and up on Wednesday night at 7 PM. 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 (Let us know if you don't get a copy)

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.

Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at dpaulposey@mac.com
or text at 530-558-5057

The Importance of Music in Worship

BY DAVID POSEY

Just a head's up: this isn't an article about using instrumental music in worship. I'm against it for a lot of reasons. But some Christians avoid the word "music" when referring to what we do in our assemblies because it may be misunderstood as *any* kind of music, including instrumental. But "music" is simply defined as "vocal *or* instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion." We don't use instruments in our assemblies, but that doesn't mean we have no "music" in our assemblies. We do. It's vocal and it's acappella: without musical accompaniment. (By the way, some of you may not know that "acappella" means "in chapel style"; for most of history, any music used in churches was vocal, with no musical instruments).

Studying Revelation has had an impact on me at several levels although I fear that I've not communicated that very well in my sermons. I have to admit that the book overwhelms me sometimes. It's not that I don't understand what is being said. I do. That's the problem. I feel like the man who said, "It's not the things in the Bible I don't understand that bothers me; it's the things I do understand."

I don't know what *he* meant but I mean that nearly every page of this book challenges me in some way. It forces me to ask some real serious questions about my faith and the quality of my worship. It reminds me of the importance of worship and, more importantly, *who* I am worshipping. It proves, beyond any doubt, that Jesus is God and worthy of all of our adoration and praise.

The worship we see in chapters 4 and 5 is awe-inspiring. There is a lot of beautiful "noise" in Revelation 4, 5 and 7 and that makes the silence in 8:1 even more stunning. There are seven hymns in these chapters: *Revelation 4:8; 4:10-11; 5:8-9; 5:11-12; 5:13-14; 7:9, 10; 7:10-12*. I say "hymns" because there is a strong argument that the Greek word *legontes*, translated as "say" or "saying" in these texts in most versions, *should* be translated with a form of the word "sing." The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translates it that way in all but one of these texts (with the inexplicable exception of 7:10). These scholars suggest the word is referring to a kind of "chanting."

Even without considering all of that, these sayings from the mouth of those who worship God certainly *look* like spiritual song lyrics. Coupled with 5:9, 14:3 and 15:3, it's not hard to imagine a heaven filled with a large crowd singing praise to God and to the Lamb.

Music is a precious gift that God has given his creation. As Jeff Herrin pointed out a couple of weeks ago, even God sings! And anyone familiar with the Psalms

knows the huge place music plays in God's kingdom. In both the Psalms and in the Revelation these main themes are repeated over and over: *worship, honor, praise and thanksgiving*.

Music permeates these chapters in Revelation and I really like that. If I could possibly look forward to going to heaven any more than I already do, this just makes the thought that much sweeter. I've always been a music lover. I was on a path to be a songwriter early in my life and I think I would have enjoyed that, although it was probably not the best path for me. That "world" of popular music is a snake pit. A vice president of Capitol even said that. So, maybe God sent the US Army after me to save me... could be; you never know.

I listen to music often, even, at times, when I'm studying. As we know, music has a physical as well as an emotional impact on us. I won't get into the technical aspects of it — talk to "T-bone" McGowan — but I think we all know it by experience. Music "does something" to us. Tears well up inside us at the sound of a moving melody and lyrics. And then there's the "song is stuck in my head" thing; the song is there even though I can't remember the words someone spoke to me 10 minutes ago. That song will play over and over until I listen to another song to purge it.

Music affects us in a special way.

We even use the word "music" figuratively: "*that news is music to my ears*." We know what that means: it means it's pleasant or gratifying. Music, in almost any genre, can make a strong emotional impact on us. God knows that. That's why he has always commanded music in the assemblies of his people.

Some people need more music in their lives. I sincerely believe that the right kind of music tends to soften our hard edges, and produce more joy in us — sometimes through the words, sometimes through the tune. Most often it's when the words and music come together to provide a rich emotional and edifying experience, even if only for a few minutes.

That's what we hope for in the hymns we sing each Sunday and we must never forget that we are "addressing one another" and "teaching and admonishing" one another in our singing in the assembly. (Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16). Clearly, the emphasis is on the teaching, but if that was the *only* emphasis then God would not have told us to sing since we can do that through verbal teaching and preaching alone. But he said "sing, making melody to the Lord with your heart." In both passages above, we are to do it with all the gratitude we can muster, "*giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Ephesians 5:17).

In Pursuit of Wisdom

WISDOM IS WHAT ALL OF US NEED, BUT RELATIVELY FEW OF US EVER DEVELOP IT. This elusive quality is supposed to come with age, but since we do not like what comes with age, we toss wisdom aside. God's people should seek out sages and hold onto them like treasure. There is no church or individual disciple anywhere who can do well without wisdom. Solomon was once known as the wisest of men, but he was also the biggest fool. When Solomon began to trust in his own ingenuity instead of seeking God's wisdom, he ran his ship aground. We must not make the same mistakes he made. Learning from his errors and avoiding our own is wise.

When was the last time you heard someone say, "We need the wisest man available." Churches look for preachers with families, personality, and oratorical skills, but they are afraid of preachers who are wise. Some want preachers they can intimidate and manage (I Cor. 16:10). When choosing elders, some brethren forget to look for the man who is truly wise about spiritual things. They often look for a man who has taught a class or two and whose children are members of the church. They ignore the qualifications which have to do with intellect and his application of what he knows. This seems to work out until it doesn't. An elder must have wisdom. All of the qualifications put together paints the picture of a spiritually wise man (I Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9). Both preachers and elders must be men with some sense. If not, the church is in trouble already. These should be men who know to seek counsel and advice from those who have demonstrated wisdom in spiritual things (Prov. 1:5; 19:20).

We sometimes confuse knowledge and wisdom.

Knowledge is the ability to know facts; wisdom is the ability to live those facts. One of my young students once told me the difference between these two qualities. He said, "knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing better than putting a tomato in my fruit salad." I was impressed with this young man's thought process. He taught his teacher! He was right about the difference between wisdom and knowledge. We do need both. We must know in order to do, but we learn more by doing. Wisdom is applied knowledge. Knowledge without wisdom can be worse than ignorance itself. You can't be faithful to the Lord without wisdom. A head full of facts can be a dangerous thing unless one knows what to do with what he knows. "Knowledge makes arrogance, but love edifies" (I Cor. 8:1, NASB).

Jesus once said, "Be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves." (Matt. 10:16). I suppose it would be easy to turn this around and be as mean as a snake and as wise as a dove! Doves are

not known to be as smart as other birds, and no one has ever feared attack from a dove. They are harmless. Jesus pointed out that a snake is shrewd. The first serpent we read of in Scripture was quite adept at slithering into the thinking of Eve and causing her to decide it was in her best interest to disobey God (Gen. 3). Eve could have used some wisdom on that occasion, for she already had knowledge of God's will (v. 3).

God does not just *have* wisdom, He *is* wisdom! In fact, wisdom cannot exist without God. David taught us,

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psa. 111:10). It is unintelligent to try and live apart from God. Knowledge is no substitute for wisdom. Jesus said, "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matt. 15:14). Jesus' wisdom says, "Seek first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33) but tragically,

the last thing many know is what should come first. They lack wisdom.

Wisdom comes in two varieties. There is worldly wisdom and godly wisdom. Read James 3:13-18. The two are contrasted. One will get you ahead in this world, the other will get you to Heaven! God gives wisdom to those who truly seek it (Jas. 1:5). Pray for it and be willing to be led by it. God will not waste wisdom on those who only want what they want. Earthly wisdom does not have much to do with character, but godly wisdom is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be in-treated, full of mercy and good fruits, and without partiality, without hypocrisy" (Jas. 3:17). Godly wisdom is all about developing God-like character. The wisdom of the world is "sensual and demonic" in nature, totally unconcerned with what God values. The world loves shrewd people and brags about how savvy and smart they are, yet "the fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psa. 14:1). Many worldly wise people do not even believe in God. Is that truly wise?

Growing Christians seek wisdom. They never feel they have enough. The more they know the more they know they don't know! They realize wisdom is not brilliance or cleverness. They learn from their mistakes, regroup, and make a better attempt to serve the Lord. Oh, how we all need wisdom!

— Mark W. White
Cy-Fair church of Christ, Cypress, Texas