

June 20, 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
Bible Classes for All Ages

9:30 AM

Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2lYxrl7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: Jeff Herrin

No Young People's Classes Today

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

The middle school class will now be held on a monthly basis, instead of weekly. Contact Dan Stegall for information at (818) 209-9810

Weekly Classes

Zoom Class: Mondays @ 7PM

The character of Moses

Contact Jack Horak @ jshorak98@gmail.com

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

The Attributes of God

Various Speakers

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

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

Divine Rehabilitation

BY TERRY RAPOSA

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” — Romans 5:6

Rehabilitation is needed

Without Christ and His sacrifice we are in a spiritually weak state. Only Christ and His Gospel can rescue us.

The word “weak” has also been translated as “without strength” (NKJV) and “helpless” (NASB). It is translated from the Greek “*asthenes*” (Strong’s #772) which means weak, sick, feeble or afflicted.

According to Webster’s dictionary the English word “asthenic” comes from this Greek word which is translated as “weak” in the ESV. “Asthenic” is a word physicians are well acquainted with. It is a helpful word in communication because it allows for acceptable terminology to explain in a word how someone in their care is doing overall without sounding disrespectful.

“Asthenic” is also a word often used in medical terminology to communicate that someone needs physical help. Usually, there is loss of muscle tone and mass, and loss of function as a result of inactivity due to long periods of hospitalization. “Asthenia” is sometimes used to refer to someone who has a slender or small frame though I have seldom heard it used in that sense. It more often conjures up a picture of someone who has been ill for a long period; often bedridden due to illness. They have become asthenic. Their limbs are weak from lack of use. They often need assistance to even get out of bed. It is time to call the physical therapist. Or we could say “it’s the right time” to call for physical therapy assistance to help them.

“We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” — Romans 6:4

A new life

Because of our sin, we became spiritually asthenic and unable to help ourselves. We are unable to muster the strength on our own and recover from a helpless spiritual state. Only Christ and His Gospel has the power to regenerate the human spirit destroyed by sin (Rom. 1:16). With physical debilitation, physical therapy can help restore strength and function; sometimes to a full physical recovery, other times only partial where partial loss of function remains for life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers something far better: a full and complete spiritual regeneration (Titus 3:5) back to a pristine spiritual state ready for a new life of service to God.

One Dad’s Method of Guilt Relief

BY DAVID POSEY

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” — Ephesians 2:8-9

I was blessed with a father who put God first and did his best to raise his four kids in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Terry Rapsosa’s article on “Divine Rehabilitation” reminded me of my father’s method of “rehabilitation.” It was pretty simple: do something wrong and you can expect a *posterior application of a superior force* (*shhhhh*...we use to call that “spanking” but we can’t say that anymore).

My father had a simple formula for kid-correction and he held me to it (he held my brother a little less to it and my two sisters even less to it. That’s called “*first child what’s-the-opposite-of-privilege?*”). He taught me to work hard, expect little in return, do the right thing, and get a spankin’ if I didn’t. I only got a couple of spankings I didn’t deserve and I didn’t get a bunch I should have gotten. The ones I got definitely kept me from repeating the thing I got the spanking for.

However, there was a problem with this approach. Spanking worked in preventing future violations of the same law but had an unintended side effect. When I got caught doing something I shouldn’t, and got a spanking, there was a weird sense of relief. You know that word “catharsis”? Look it up, because that was the effect: there was a purging, a relief from guilt for doing the thing I did or saying the thing I said. That’s not a bad thing, but it had a flaw.

Our son, Dave, figured this out at a nearly age. His sister Angie hated getting a spanking; it was a dignity thing for her. When we gave the kids a choice of punishment, as we often did (spanking... or several other undesirable alternatives) Dave told Angie, “just take the spanking and get it over with...” In other words, he was telling her that after the spanking you feel fine because you’ve “paid the price.”

Thinking about that has caused me to alter my view on child discipline slightly. I still think parents should keep spanking in their bag of tools for discipline (I could offer a lot of evidence for that, especially after a few airplane rides with incredibly spoiled kids... but I digress). There are some methods of punishment that are more instructive and help the child understand *why* he or she was punished. Spanking is a valuable tool *if* used in conjunction with communicating the reason for the punishment instead of used as a shortcut just to deter bad behavior.

There’s an application to us as Christians as well. God doesn’t use physical punishment to “rehabilitate” us in these times. When we sin, as Terry reminds us, we need to be rehabilitated by Christ through the gospel. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we can’t atone for our guilt by doing good deeds. It also doesn’t work to robotically go to “confession” once a week, or through a figurative “spanking” from the preacher on Sunday. I’ve found that some members of the church actually like getting their “toes stepped on” — it’s kind of a catharsis for them. But that has no power to save.

The gospel is the only power to save (Romans 1:16) and the only path to guilt relief is through sincere confession and prayer to God through Christ. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” — I John 1:9.*

Improving Our Thought Life

BY SCOTT GARDNER

One of the things I have come to appreciate in my spiritual walk is the power to make my own decisions. I know that every action must begin with a thought whether good or bad. Jesus refers to this thought process as matters of the heart. In Mark 7:20-23 he tells us that sin proceeds from evil thoughts. We do not commit outward sins without having thought about it first. It is these sinful thoughts that defile the heart. If we want to have spiritual victory in this life then we must win the battle over sin in our thoughts first.

The Bible is full of scripture telling us what is right and wrong. For example, we can go to Galatians 5:16-21

and read a list of sins that, if practiced, will cost me an eternity away from God's presence. All of these begin in the heart. However, we must be careful to not fall into the trap of thinking these are just check lists of right and wrong.

This is a limited view of right and wrong. Rather than thinking on things that move us towards God we think of the things we cannot do so that we avoid sin. But is avoiding sin enough? The "avoiding sin" thought process may not remove us far enough from the desire to commit sin. Sin is always there, peeking over the fence or hiding under a tree, calling to us from every direction. This is a stagnant thought process that will eventually result in a stagnant faith. We will eventually wear out spiritually because we have a check list religion rather than a life that walks with God and brings glory to him.

So how do we move forward in our thinking? In Philippians, Paul expresses his love and appreciation for the believers. He encourages them to live their lives in joy and peace as they walk with God. In chapter 4 Paul encourages Christians to live a prayerful life, release the anxiety of this world and fill their life with peace that only God can bring. But Paul says that prayer alone is not enough. In verse 8 Paul says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things."

"Whatever" precedes the list of things to think about. "Whatever" is a powerful word. If someone asks, "what do you want for lunch" and the answer is, "whatever is fine with me" then the assumption is that you are open to everything. If someone is in need we

often say, "whatever I can do for you please don't hesitate to ask". This is a gracious and kind person who is willing to help no matter the inconvenience. Paul uses "whatever" to challenge our thinking process. Instead of listing all the things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable, he tells us to think on whatever is these are. This "whatever" thinking takes us from "check list" religion to a relationship with God's desire for us.

But wait, it gets better. God has offered us something that will help us navigate through the whatever's in our life. Wisdom. James 1:6 tells us that if we lack wisdom we need only to ask God. Wisdom takes us beyond "living on the edge" Christianity. It moves our hearts and minds to skillfully discern godly choices when we are faced with life's obstacles. The wisdom that we seek from God moves the heart toward Him. We don't rest on the fact that

something is sinful but we methodically think through the things that make it wrong and on how we might be lead into temptation. We must keep our thought processes moving in a spiritual direction.

Ephesians 5:18 is a good example of this. "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the spirit." Getting drunk is in contrast with being filled with the Spirit. Discernment, which takes a heart of wisdom, shows that intoxication of mind-altering substances like meth, heroine, marijuana, lsd, mushrooms... are all debauchery. Notice that the end of the verse says to "be filled with the spirit." We need to seek the meaning of things like "set your mind on things above" in Colossians 3:2 and "Love not the world..." in 1 John 2:15-17. Our hearts need to cry out for more of God's wisdom and less of the debauchery of this world.

We should be grateful that through study and prayer God can give us a heart of wisdom. Let us move on to maturity and seek to draw near to God with wise choices. Let us look to heaven and be a reflection of God for the world to see. The world should see God through the things we do, the things we say, and the decisions we make.

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