

July 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

Bible Classes for All Ages

9:30 AM

Auditorium: Ephesians
Randy Clark

Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwY2lYxrL7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey

Our Amazing Compassionate Father!

The Book of Jonah

Young People's Class

5 PM Every Sunday

Contact David Posey for information at
(530) 558-5057

The middle school class is held once a month. 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

Ephesians

David Posey

Saturday Men's Breakfast

7 AM, second Saturday of the month

Contact Tyler Wade @ tyler@ppldev.com

Additional Classes

There are some home studies 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

Don't Play with the Sacred

BY MARK WHITE

CY-FAIR CHURCH OF CHRIST, CYPRESS, TEXAS

Untold millions of people will attend a church service somewhere in the world this Sunday. They will claim they went there to worship. I wonder how many of those intending to worship will actually succeed? Even among members of the church, I wonder how many will follow the forms of scriptural worship, but will leave their hearts elsewhere while they simply go through the motions? Not having a piano or organ in our building will not guarantee that worship will occur in correct fashion. Who is man that he dares to come into the presence of Almighty God? Where is the awe? Where is the reverence? Most everyone assumes they know what worship is, but they do not. Most feel that just any act directed toward God is accepted by Him, but that is not true. People need to take a serious look at the phenomenon of worship.

The greatest teaching ever done on worship came from Jesus. He directed His remarks on the subject to a fallen, outcast, Samaritan woman (John 4:22-24). She was concerned about the proper place for worship and Jesus answered her question. Other than the question, "What must I do to be saved?", the most important questions people ask have to do with how to approach a holy God with an offering of worship. Worship is a God-given privilege. It must be done rightly. Never play with worship. The consequences of doing so will cost you eternal life. There have been times when improper worship cost men their temporal lives, too (Lev. 10:1-3). God is far more serious about worship than most people seem to be.

When people offer worship, God takes special notice. He is aware of what we do. Worship is the response we make to the presence of God among us. We need Him and express our dependence on Him as we worship. He does not need us and it is a good thing that our worship neither makes God greater nor diminishes His the reality of His majesty. God is always God regardless of our puny efforts. Yet, He calls on us to worship.

When our worship doctrine is wrong our worship practice will be wrong, too. When we get God right, we get worship right. Worship can't occur without God as its object. John tersely stated, "*Worship God*" (Rev. 22:9). God must be our priority when we assemble to worship. He must be first. He will not be second, let alone last! As a popular song says, we must "forget about ourselves and gather in His name to worship Him." Worship is an encounter with God. We hear Him through His word. If we are not listening to His word, we cannot hear what He says. Worship is an attitude of the heart. It is work, difficult work. It does not come easily to the natural man. True worship is learned behavior.

People bow before all sorts of things. It may be money, or success. It could be pride, popularity, education or recognition. God made man with a desire to worship. We can make fools of ourselves by what we worship. We become like the gods we worship (Psa. 115:8). Some come to worship services at church and proclaim "I didn't get

anything out of it." If that is so, worship did not fail, the worshiper failed. Worship is giving to God, not getting from God. We have worship backwards when we expect to automatically "get something" from it. Try seeing how much you can give to God. You will certainly get something in return when you get this order right. Put something into your worship, work at your worship, and God will open the windows of heaven and give to you in return (Mal. 3:10; Lk. 6:38). *Work on*, but **never play with**, the sacred.

Stay Awake and Learn To Listen

I f all the people who sleep in church were laid end to end — they would be much more comfortable. A speaker can dismiss those who stretch out as he mounts the stand. They slide down on their sacroiliac, brace themselves with a song book, and bid the world farewell. For the life of me, I can't figure out why they bother to dress and come. When they snore I wish they wouldn't.

But there is another class of sleepers for whom I have great compassion. The hard-working, out-door folk, weary of body, giving in to the comfortable seat and warm room. For them I suggest a compassionate solution: cut down on the hard work and get plenty of rest on Saturday. Athletes rest up for the big game, and old folk rest up before the grand-children come. If Bible study and the worship meant as much to us as they should, we would make a conscious effort to *prepare* for them.

At this point it is only fair to state that the speaker has an obligation, too. He must *prepare* something worth hearing and present it with enthusiasm. If the preacher *puts* them to sleep, let him awaken them.

And we have a special sympathy for those honest folks who have never learned how to *listen*. They want to stay awake — their cold fishy stare is as embarrassing to them as it is irritating to the speaker — but what can they do? Well, first, quit trying to stay awake, and *start doing something with what you are hearing*. That's a positive approach.

What is the subject? What is the apparent aim of the lesson; to what does it lead? Evaluate the logic of the speaker, making mental notes of points you feel need more or less emphasis. (Written notes are not out of order — listing scriptures and some comments that you feel are special.)

Allow mental pictures to form. You are *there*, with Paul in Athens, with Mary at the cross, with the early church and their problems. This will assist one in making self-application of each truth — how does it affect me now? Do I react today to similar situations, as Christians reacted then?

Check the scriptures in your text and rephrase the argument in your own words. Listen! And soon you will discover that the preacher doesn't seem to preach as long as he once did.

—ROBERT F. TURNER, STUFF ABOUT THINGS, MARCH 1972

Culture Corner

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
Romans 12:2

Worship

[See Mark White and Robert F. Turner's comments on public worship on page 2.]

Nothing we do during the week is more important than our public worship every Sunday. What we do here is simple. We pray, we sing (*acappella*), we hear a word from God and we solemnly observe the Lord's Supper. Some leaders in churches feel that is not enough. They think that it's necessary to add rock-style music, and other "attractions" to get people in the door. And, in many cases, that works. But God is not concerned with how many people come through the door; he's concerned with the *type* of people who come in.

That makes this critique, from a well-known denominational preacher, even more interesting:

"You don't think the world has infected your church? Cut out the music. Turn on all the lights – use normal light bulbs, please. Have a man stand in front of them and preach the Word. Try and sell that. See how many come back next Sunday."

— John MacArthur

Catfish on TikTok

What it is: Catfishing on TikTok continues to become more and more prevalent as adults pretend to be minors on the app as a way to get followers and make money. One website's headline reads like this: "*Tik Tok's catfish problem is worse than you think. Several creators have been called out for faking their age and their race.*"

Why it's more likely to trick you than your teenager: Let's face it, there's no group on earth better at

sniffing out a phony than teenagers. And since many teens are also informed up-to-the-moment with the very latest advancements in technology and photo-editing trickery, many in the twenty-and-under set are adept at identifying adults posing as teenagers on the app and simply scrolling on past those accounts. What's concerning is that these adults who are pretending to be minors have found a target demographic willing and able to pay for content that sexualizes the idea of being underage. These "catfish" use TikTok and other social media platforms as a way to market their paid channels, such as OnlyFans. Most of these content creators may not actually be sixteen, but they look like they *could* be (or edit themselves to look like they

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could be), and voyeurs watching them may very well believe that they are underage when they are performing explicit acts on camera. We don't want to frighten our teens, but it's our job to help them understand pornography that sexualizes teens and children is a horrifying evil that we should never ignore.

Should that ever describe a Christian? The term "discreetly" simply means that we dress prudently and carefully... as if God is watching (because he is).

— From Culture Translator

Contextualization: Text Impacts Life

The Weight of Glory

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." — II Corinthians 4:16-18

"The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things – the beauty, the memory of our own past – are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself, they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Not Conformed to This World

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

— Romans 12:1-2

Every now and then, a young person will quote this verse — or at least the first part of it — and say that it is one of their favorites. That's encouraging. This verse aptly summarizes the practical application of the theology and doctrine that Paul teaches in Romans 1-11.

Verse one of chapter 12, remember, begins with the appeal to "*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...*" Paul calls it "your spiritual worship." As important as collective worship is, it isn't confined to our assemblies. When we, on a daily basis, decide to sacrifice our own will and do God's will, we are honoring and bowing to God and that's "spiritual worship."

We cannot be conformed to this world and engage in spiritual worship at the same time. It's impossible.