

September 26, 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

9:30 AM

Bible Classes for All Ages

Auditorium: Ephesians

Young Adult Class (room 17/18)

Assembly: 10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2iYxrL7ZUGTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey

Jesus on Evangelism

Hebrews class today @ 1:30 PM
at the building

Young People's Class @ Posey's

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

Zoom Class: Mondays @ 7PM:

The character of Moses

Contact Jack Horak @ jshorak98@gmail.com

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Ephesians: Auditorium

Saturday Men's Breakfast

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

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

Let's Talk Evangelism

Approaching a Prospect Three Methods of Evangelism

Information Transmission. Goal: Impart Information. *Teacher/Student*

Manipulative Monologue. Goal: "Close the sale." *Salesman/Customer*

Non-Manipulative Dialogue. Goal: Conversation about Jesus. *Friend/Friend*

The chart below is from a small study carried out several years ago. I'm presenting here because I'm convinced that nothing much has changed. Information transmission and manipulative monologue is even less popular today than it was five years ago. For better or worse, though we must transmit some information, we have moved on from the practice of using filmstrips (remember those!) and charts and graphs as the dominant method of teaching the lost. The manipulative, "used-car salesman" approach was never a good idea.

Categories	Information Transmission	Manipulative Monologue	Non-Manipulative Dialogue	Totals
Converts: Active	35	36	169	240
Dropouts	25	209	6	240
Never Converted	180	58	2	240

Analysis of the numbers

70% of those who are now active members came to Christ and the church as a result of a member who saw evangelism as *non-manipulative dialogue*.

87% of those now *inactive* were the subjects of a *manipulative monologue* approach.

Of those who said "no thanks," 75% did so in response to the *information transmission* model.

An evangelistic process that views its goal as a "decision" instead of a "disciple" tends to create dropouts. "Deciders" are not necessarily "disciples."

An evangelistic process that presents the gospel one time and then asks for a response tends to create dropouts. Years ago, Flavil Yeakley found (in *Why Churches Grow*) that those who continued as active members had been exposed to an average of about six different Christian influencers prior to their commitment. Dropouts had heard the gospel only about two times.

An evangelistic process that does not build relationships tends to create dropouts. A "Friendship Ratio" of 1:7 is ideal, 1:4 minimum; that is, a new person should be able to identify at least seven friends in the church, four at the minimum, within the first six months.

The Challenge from an Infidel

A famous infidel is said to have written the following:

“Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, religion would be to me everything. I would cast aside earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion should be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of eternity only. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering.

Earthly consequences should never stay my hands nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly miserable or everlastingly happy. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be, ‘What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul...’”

I was impressed when I first read this many years ago. This time, however, my first thought after reading it was, “*easy for him to say; he’s an unbeliever!*” Clearly, he is overstating the case. Christians are not literally called out of the world — we have families to take care of and many other responsibilities. So, we can’t “labor in it [religion] *alone*.” Not even full-time preachers can do that.

Having said that, his little essay still challenges me and warns me to refocus more resolutely my thoughts on Christ and his word.

My View

DAVID POSEY

Sadly, we come to the end of our study of Ephesians today. It’s been a pleasure to teach with Randy and Brady who have done a superb job in making salient points, fielding comments, responding to the questions and keeping the class moving forward. I’m looking forward to teaching with them again in the future. It also has reminded me of how many excellent Bible students we have here at Folsom. The comments have been insightful and enlightening.

Any thorough study of any book in the Bible leaves me feeling grateful for the undertaking and I always learn something I had not seen before. Some studies go beyond that and leave me thinking about what we learned long after the study ends. My studies in Romans, the gospel of John, Ruth (yes, Ruth!) and Ephesians are some of those that have been especially precious in that regard.

What is it about Ephesians that makes such a huge impact on me every time I study it? Perhaps it’s the structure of the book, with such a clean break between the doctrinal material and the practical material. Other books do that (e.g., Romans 1-11 and 12-16) but none in such a concise manner as Ephesians. Or, similar to that, maybe it’s the “*who am I*” before the “*what do I do*” organization of the book. That structure makes the book easier to study and “digest.”

But I don’t think that’s it, entirely. It’s the actual words that the Holy Spirit chose for Paul to write. The opening lines set the scene and, if read properly, fills any Christian to the brim with awe. So, I’d like to leave you with that — and I freely admit, it was difficult to stop at verse 14:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 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 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Paul, from Rome, c. AD 60, *Ephesians 1:3-14*