

January 2, 2022

The View

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

Welcome Visitors & Returning College Students!

We always love to see visitors and for the next month or so, we'll get to be with our college students who are home for the holidays. As a reminder, 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 located near the entrance.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: A Study of Paul's Second & Third Journeys

*Room 15/16: Raising Faithful Kids**

*Room 12: Young Adults Class***

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Jesus on... "What's New?"

Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 Judges

Bible Class @ 5 PM — A Study of Prayer (Auditorium)

Young People's Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey's home

Middle school class: monthly (contact Dan Stegall at 818-209-9810)

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: A Study of Paul's Second & Third Journeys

*Room 15/16: Raising Faithful Kids**

*Room 12: Young Adults Class***

**Please check with David Posey or Ben Woodside for information*

***Please see Randy Clark or Terry Raposa for information*

Classes

[All classes are on Sundays and Wednesdays unless otherwise indicated]

1. As always, we have **classes for “all ages”** starting with children from 18 months.
2. We have a class for **young adults** — young people that are out of high school and don't have any children yet. Singles, couples — “the twenty somethings.” This quarter, the class will continue to focus on relationships through a study of selected Psalms. Please see Randy Clark or Terry Raposa for further information.
3. For **parents**, we continue the **“Raising Faithful Kids”** class in room 15/16. Please check with David Posey or Ben Woodside if you would like to join the class.
4. In the auditorium, Kenny Marrs will be teaching a class on **the second and third journeys of the apostle Paul** See Kenny for more information.
5. At **2 PM on Sundays**, at the building, in **room 12**, a new class begins on the study of **Judges**.
6. The **5:30 class at the building (auditorium)**, the class on **prayer** continues, with lessons from the **Psalms**.
7. At **5 PM every Sunday**, there is a class for high school and college-age youth at the Posey's.
8. There are several **home studies** in progress as well. Please see David Posey for information.

The Crucial Importance of Bible Reading & Study

You can't get all the Bible you need by listening to a sermon once-a-week or even participating in one Bible class. These are important, but only a supplement to your own personal Bible study. An extensive study by the Center for Bible Engagement, involving more than 100,000 people from around the world, clearly shows that our daily Bible reading habits are important to a thriving life. Those who engage in reading the Bible four or more times a week are:

- 30% less likely to struggle with loneliness
- 59% less likely to view pornography
- 200% more likely to give to charitable causes
- 228% more likely to share faith with others
- 407% more likely to memorize scripture

The Word of God is powerful and life changing! It reveals God's unconditional love and his plan and his will for our life (Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:105). It is living and active (Hebrews 4:12) and the source of our faith (Romans 10:17). It gives us power over the enemy (Luke 4:1-13).

The Bible helps us navigate life here on earth but also helps us focus on the world to come. C.S. Lewis said “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” (*Mere Christianity*, page 134).

There are several Bible reading plans available online. Here are two you can check out:

This one has several choices...

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

This one is in chronological order, which is very helpful:

<https://iphc.org/discipleship/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/01/BibleReadingGuide-English.pdf>

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Who We Are

I can't think of a better way to start the new year than with a reminder of who we (Christians) are in God's eyes. My friend Mark White, who preaches in Texas, put together a helpful, inspiring list.

The New Testament forthrightly declares who and what we are as Christians. Be encouraged and instructed by the uses of this little phrase, "**we are**," in the *New American Standard Bible*, showing our identity:

- "But we believe **we are** saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 15:11).
- "**we are** not under law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:15).
- "**we are** under obligation not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh" (Rom. 8:12).
- "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit, that **we are** the children of God" (Rom. 8:16).
- "in all these things **we are** more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:36, NKJV)
- "whether we live or die, **we are** the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8)
- "For **we are** a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (II Cor. 2:15)
- "**we are** afflicted in every way, but not crushed" (II Cor. 4:8).
- "while **we are** at home in the body **we are** absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith not by sight – **we are** of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:6-8).
- "For **we are** the temple of the living God" (II Cor. 6:16).
- "But now that faith has come, **we are** no longer under a tutor. For **you are** all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:25-26)
- "For **we are** His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10)
- "**we are** no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about

by every wind of doctrine ... **we are** to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ" (Eph.4:14,15)

- "**we are** members of one another" (Eph. 4:25).
- "**we are** members of His body" (Eph. 5:30).
- "For **we are** the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3).
- "for **you are** all sons of light and sons of day. **We are** not of night and not of darkness ... But since **we are** of the day, let us be sober" (I Thess. 5:5,8).
- "but Christ was faithful over His house – whose house **we are**, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end" (Heb. 3:6).
- "But **we are** not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." (Heb. 10:39).
- "For here we do not have a lasting city, but **we are** seeking the city which is to come." (Heb. 13:14).
- "But according to His promise, **we are** looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (II Pet. 3:13).
- "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such **we are**. ... Beloved, now **we are** children of God" (I John 3:1,2).
- "We will know by this that **we are** of the truth" (I John 3:19).
- "We know that **we are** of God" (I John 5:19).
- "**we are** in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (I John 5:20).

Two little words, but what power, comfort, and encouragement they bring to every Christian! This is a look at who we are from God's perspective. Let's make it our own as well.

–Mark White, Cy-Fair church of Christ, Cypress, Texas