

January 9, 2022

The View

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

Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.” The six elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of 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 the preacher or 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... Jesus

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

Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 on Judges

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

Young Peoples’ Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home (no class today)*

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***

Face Coverings

The elders are well-aware of the many questions concerning the wearing of face coverings in the assembly. The government hasn't helped because they have often sent mixed messages. Our aim is not to address all the issues surrounding mask mandates here, but to reiterate what we have said before and repeated in our latest email to the church. Here is that statement:

We appreciate that many of you are struggling with the Sacramento County Health Department mask mandate in light of Romans 13:1-7 and the recent communication by the eldership. Please know that the mask mandate has been issued by the Sacramento County Health Department and not the elders. Therefore, the Health Department, if it decides to do so, would be the ones to enforce its own mandate – not the eldership. The elders believe it is our duty to ask members to be knowledgeable of the health order, study Romans 13:1-7 and decide as an individual what they are going to do. Thank you for your patience while we all work through a very difficult time. – from the elders

We feel this statement succinctly clarifies our position on whether we are *requiring* our members to wear masks. It is not our — the elders — role to enforce mandates issued by governmental agencies. That is in the hands of those agencies.

The elders review the ever-changing rules and regulations regarding Covid on a daily basis and we feel it is our duty to inform the church when a significant change occurs. We do that through an email to our members. We don't always include every particular in each email, so we want you to know that the above statement is our steadfast policy on this issue; if there is any change in our stance on the mask issue, or any other Covid-related issues, we will make that explicitly clear. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Classes

All classes are on Sundays and Wednesdays unless otherwise indicated

As always, we have **classes for “all ages”** starting with children from 18 months through high school.

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. **Room 12**

For **parents**, we continue the **“Raising Faithful Kids”** class in room **15/16**. Please check with David Posey or Ben Woodside if you have not been in the class but would like to join it.

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.

At **2 PM on Sundays**, at the building, in **room 12**, a class continues on the study of **Judges**.

The **5 PM class at the building (auditorium)**, a class on **prayer**, continues, with lessons from the **Psalms**.

At **5 PM every Sunday**, there is a class for high school and college-age youth at the Posey's **(no class tonight)**.

There are several **home studies** in progress as well. Please see David Posey or Len Baker for information.

The Benefits in Senior Citizenship

by David Posey

Considering the alternative, at least from an earthly perspective, getting older — becoming a “senior citizen” — is a good thing. But not everyone sees it that way. We live in a world where youth is glorified and the elderly are often not considered valuable members of society — or worse. Elder abuse is a real problem but not on the radar to the same degree as child or spousal abuse. But God values older folks and we should, too. Proverbs 16:31 says, “*Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.*” Proverbs 20:29 adds, “*The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.*”

I’m not claiming that getting older is “fun.” Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 describes the aches, pains and other physical and mental aspects of getting old. It starts with this,

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them...”

It continues with this pessimistic catalog of the physical effects of aging:

...before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house

tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 12:2-8

Solomon’s view is characteristically negative but eventually, as one grows old, they begin to relate to this — at least some of it. But, despite these physical limitations, there are blessings in getting older. You have to get older to enjoy grandkids; you have to get older to enjoy a long marriage with your spouse. Some of us have adopted the slogan that goes like this: “I’m not

getting older, I’m getting *better.*” There’s some truth in that, if we choose to look at it that way.

Faithful children of God should embrace the aging process. After all, it just means we are “another day closer to paradise.” Paul said, “to die is gain...” (Philippians 1:21) and that “gain” becomes more real as you age. Some try to deny the aging process. But dressing and talking like a young person, to try to hang on to your youth, is just... well... pitiful. And lying about your age makes you a liar just as much as lying about anything else.

Instead of trying to hide it, or fool others, senior citizens should own their age. After all, businesses brag about when they were established long ago. I saw an ad the other day that displayed that they have been in business since the 1800s. The Coach handbag company proudly sports a badge that says “since 1943.” Why do they do that? Because age equals experience, steadfastness, and dependability (or it should).

Psalm 92 reminds us that the elderly “*still bear fruit in old age...*” (v. 14). That

verse also says that they are “*ever full of sap and green.*” By “sap,” the psalmist means that the older person is still productive and, while his physical capacities may have diminished, he is still

“green” in his mind and in his desire to grow and serve the Lord and others. I love that!!

“Old” doesn’t have to mean “washed up” and an older person is not, by virtue of age, a “has-been.” As Christians, their faithfulness in attendance and in seeking the lost and doing whatever they are physically able to do allows them to be a tremendous source of encouragement to others.

Older Christians should be a rich source of wisdom as well, especially as we study together in Bible classes. Sometimes an older Christian seems to quit studying and relies on “old knowledge” — perhaps relying on notes written years ago in the margins of his or her Bible. But if an older man or woman is still humbly examining Scripture the comments he or she makes in class will not only reflect that study but will be that much deeper because of the life experience they bring to it. The combination of knowledge and experience is priceless.

I Timothy 4:12 says “Let no one despise your youth...” but today, let’s say, “*let no one despise your age.*”