

January 30, 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... Bullying

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

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

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article about the use of the term "slippery slope." I ran across this article, "**Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow**," by Sewell Hall, that serves as a great follow-up to that article.

“Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them” (Hebrews 2:1, ASV).

The word *drifting* aptly describes the process of apostasy. It is seldom accomplished by giant leaps; rather it is the result of short steps. The steps appear to be only the slightest variation from the accepted truth and altogether innocent, but each one is used as justification for the next one until truth has been left completely, even by individuals who would never have dreamed it possible.

We have known of congregations where a piano was first allowed in the basement to teach children how to sing. But having learned with it, the children continued to need it in their Bible classes. Once this was allowed, someone asked the difference in young folks and adults – the difference in Wednesday night and Sunday night. No logical difference could be shown so it was allowed at those times.

Then someone had only to point out the inconsistency in using it Sunday night and refusing it Sunday morning, and from then on it was used at all services, a thing that would have been opposed when the piano was first moved into the basement.

A group of Americans preaching in Africa said they were strongly opposed to churches of Christ operating a hospital in the United States. But they thought churches could and should support a nurse in Nigeria to treat wounds and minor illnesses. But once the nurse was supported, a hospital was proposed. Anyone who objected would be asked, “If you can support a nurse and clinic, why not a doctor and hospital?” No logical difference could be shown, so the hospital was built. Now often heard is a proposal for a Church of Christ Hospital in the United States. The argument: “If we can do it in Nigeria, why not here?” Granted that premise, no sound reason can be given. It all started with letting a church support a nurse.

A church we know has a kitchen. They defend it on the grounds that it costs the church nothing. The



kitchen and equipment were in the building when it was purchased and they have a minimum electric and water bill each month, anyway. But a generation will arise that is accustomed to the kitchen. They will want to build a new building and they will want a kitchen. Their argument will be “We’ve always had a kitchen. If we could have it in the old building, why not in the new?” There will be no chance of keeping it out.

In our town, a kindergarten is beginning in the meetinghouse of one of the churches. In a news item, it is stated, “The kindergarten will be at the church, but will not be operated by the church.” This will satisfy the minds of many who would object to the church operating or supporting a school of any kind.

But one of these days another step will be proposed.

It may be opening a first grade. If someone objects, the question will be raised, “But what is the difference in a first grade and kindergarten?” There is no difference, so the opposition will be silenced and the way will be clear for second grade, third grade, etc., etc.

But some day the school will need to be subsidized.

Those opposed to support of education will rise up to object. But someone will say, “It’s true we haven’t been contributing from the treasury, but we have been providing a place for the school and it has been using the name of the church. Now if we can contribute facilities and influence, why not money?” That question will be hard to answer, for there is no difference and the opposition will then be silenced.

From this, the next logical step will be to send money to a college, for, after all, what is the difference between contributing to our own school and contributing to one operated by someone else? And it all began with a kindergarten, which “will be at the church, but will not be operated by the church.”

Truly, “*Mighty oaks from little acorns grow*.” The mistake is ever allowing an acorn to get mixed with the seed of the kingdom. Every innovation, regardless of how small, must be rejected, not only for its own sake, but also for the sake of attendant corruptions that will surely follow in its train.

— Sewell Hall
via *Cy-Fair News & Notes*

“The Right Words”

By Harold Comer

What are the right words with which to criticize a king that is in a position to kill you for what you say? The prophet Nathan found the right words to help David the king, to clearly see himself. His words reversed David's spiritual decline. Nathan's word picture of a rich man taking a poor man's pet lamb was powerful and touching indeed. They were the right words at the right time.

How do you immediately get a Bible study with a powerful foreign official? Philip chose words with punch and yet enough courtesy to propel him from the desert road-side into the treasurer's chariot and a powerful, life-changing study of the words of Isaiah 53. The right words open doors. The wrong words close doors.

When an angry, powerful man is coming to kill your husband, what do you do? Do you run and hide, stay and cry, or ponder your words for just the right statement to sway him to reason and insight? Abigail chose the right words and her speech cooled David's anger while it warmed his admiration for her. It is valuable indeed to choose the right words for the occasion at hand.

When Jonathan's best friend David was threatened with death or at least exile, the young prince's speeches were an example to all friends in lending support and encouragement with choice words!

God said to “*consider*”—The right words are often needed in Christianity today. We are commanded to give consideration to our efforts of provoking or stimulating our brethren to love and good works (Heb. 10:24). That means we are to ponder the needs and personalities of our weak brethren and are to work at choosing the right words with which to strengthen them. We are to exhort—but the real command of that passage is the simple verb “*consider*” to provoke one another to love and good works. God commands the thinking, searching, and agonizing necessary to find the right words.

Finding The Right Words

We can find what will help if we try. Nathan, Abigail, Nathan, Jonathan, and Philip did. We must keep building our ability to say the things that minister grace to those who need us (Eph. 4:29). Here are some things we can do to find the right words that will help others:

We can decide we are obligated to improve our ability to say what's best on any given occasion.

Too many say, “I don't know what to say” and try to shed the responsibility to find the right thing to say. Others speak, but their tongue becomes a butcher knife cast into the heart of those they are trying to “help.” In addition to Hebrews 10:24, Colossians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 5:15 command us to develop wisdom in helping others. II Timothy 2:24 commands us to improve our teaching skills.

We can study the Bible to find things that work!

When Jesus picked just the right words to stimulate the Samaritan woman to spiritual curiosity and self-honesty, He taught us a lot about one group of choice words which arouse another's interest. It is possible to find things that work by perceptibly looking at Biblical role models.

We can find the right words with empathy! Too often, well meaning spiritual people bull their way into another's life. They tell them exactly what they should do without any awareness of the other's emotional condition or mood. They not only fail in their effort to help, they come through as insensitive, pushy bores and they close doors for later help. God commanded a spirit of empathy in Romans 12:15 and I Corinthians 12:26. Wise men don't sing songs to the heavy-hearted (Prov. 25:20). Identify their mood.

We can be sympathetic. Then speak gentle words to help find receptive ears. Tone is important to the right words! Often the right words can end up sounding different from what is literally expressed. The words are good but the tone is altered by anger at something else, excessive tension, or just plain exhaustion. Proverbs 15:1 teaches that tone is important for really changing the angry man. A portion of people who need help respond more to a tone than they do the specific words that are used. Watch your words and watch your tone!

Visual words work faster! Nathan used a concrete, visual situation with David. There was a quick response. Christ often taught by painting a visual picture. When Abigail cooled the angry David, she painted a vivid picture of him as king. Paint a picture with words. Hunt for a visual or concrete word. The meaning will be clearer than a long speech loaded with abstractions.

Words of support are valuable! When David was threatened by the jealousy and javelins of Saul, Jonathan was there to offer words of endorsement and support. Words of support are needed by Bible class teachers, elders, deacons, parents and weak, troubled Christians today. They are not a waste of time. Rather, they are great and valuable motivators.

God expects you to care about the end result. Words, forced into sounds are just particles of bouncing air until they move the brain of another in a valuable and powerful way. Hunt for better words.

via *Cy-Fair News & Notes*