

February 27, 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... Mercy

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

Things to Think About During the Assembly

Imagine that Jesus is sitting next to you and knows what you are thinking.

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalm 16:11

War

By David Posey

As I write this on Saturday, Russian soldiers are in Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine, an independent, sovereign nation. The Russians have no business being there. They are there because Russia's leader, Vladimir Putin, is an evil human being whose lust for power and a kind of sick "glory" is costing the lives of many Ukrainian men, women and children, as well as the men in the Russian army. Today, the Ukrainians are heroically defending their nation. Our prayers are with the people in Ukraine and, especially, our Christian brothers and sisters there and in Russia.

War is always the result the result of sin on the part of someone in the world who has the power to wage it. War-mongers are motivated by greed, hate and bloodlust. Paul in Romans 3:13-18 puts it this way:

"Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive."
"The venom of asps is under their lips."
"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."
"Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known."
"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

I lived all of my younger years under the cloud of war in the 1950s and 1960s. They called it the "cold war"

because no bullets were flying but there was constant talk of World War III and of an impending nuclear holocaust.

Commercials on TV capitalized on the fear of war; ads for bomb shelters and how to survive a nuclear attack were common. We didn't have fire drills in school, we had "nuclear blast" drills

which consisted of us quickly getting under our desks (as if that would work). I lived in Vallejo at the time, home of Mare Island, where nuclear submarines were built. I overheard someone say that Soviet missiles were aimed first at Washington, D. C. and second at Vallejo California. At age 12 to 13, I was just old enough to understand something about the gravity of the situation, though I didn't say much.

I was afraid, but my dad didn't seem moved at all. He had served in Europe in WWII 10-12 years before, so a "cold" war was not as big a deal to him. My mother, however, picked up on my fear and came up with a mantra that helped me cope. She would say — after a bomb shelter commercial or a dire news report — "you know, Jesus said *there will always be wars and rumors of wars...*" She quoted her truncated version of Mark 13:7 repeatedly, especially when the cold war began to heat up.

Ecclesiastes 9:18 says it well: "*Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.*"

We're seeing that play out on the world stage as we speak. America's involvement in war may be motivated by many things, some honorable, some, perhaps, not so honorable. In any case, it's a reality all must live with. As Solomon says, "*... a time for war, and a time for peace*" (Ecclesiastes 3:8)

On November 18, 1956, Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev said, "We will bury you!" while addressing Western ambassadors at a reception at the Polish embassy in Moscow on. Later, some said this was a mistranslation of his words, but that didn't matter. "*We will bury you!*" was what we and the rest of the world heard, and I thought I could hear the doomsday clock ticking.

Meanwhile, my mom just kept repeating, "*Jesus said there will be wars and rumors of wars...*" I learned much later that Jesus said that in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem that would occur in AD 70. He was telling the Jews that there will be talk of war and, in some places, actual war, but that didn't mean that "the end" (Jerusalem's destruction) was imminent. He went on to provide some additional signs and instructions for his disciples to follow for when the time *did* come years later (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

So, my mom quoted the verse out of context. But while Jesus had a specific reference in mind, he began his discourse with this universal principle: at any time in history, there are wars and rumors of wars. And, in fact, none of my life has been lived without a war or rumor of a war going on somewhere: Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan were all wars that the United States was directly involved in. There were, of

course, many other smaller wars taking place in various parts of the world.

This attack on Ukraine may be the first "live" war some of you have witnessed. Others will remember when, in 1990, it was announced that the US was going to attack Baghdad. So, Christie and I and Angie and Dave and Carly all sat down in front of the TV at 6 PM, tuned to CNN and watched the beginning of the war on Iraq called "Desert Storm." Ironically,

Trey, Angie's future husband-to-be, was a tank driver in that war. Watching this was strange. We had seen "film at 11" before but never the actual beginning of the war, live and in color. The war in Vietnam was the first war that had nightly updates on the 6 and 11 O'clock news hours, but this was different. This war against Ukraine is unique in that it is the first "smart phone camera war"— phone photos and videos are popping up all over social media.

How this is affecting our children?

For Gen Z (the generation that was born between 1997-2012), there is concern. How do we know? TikTok, of course. As of Friday, #worldwar3 has 780 million views on TikTok. This is Gen Z's way of expressing fear and confusion. But that's not all. They are also concerned about the possibility of being drafted.

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CULTURE CORNER

Quotes & News

“Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.” — David W. Augsburger

From Culture Translator, February 25, 2022

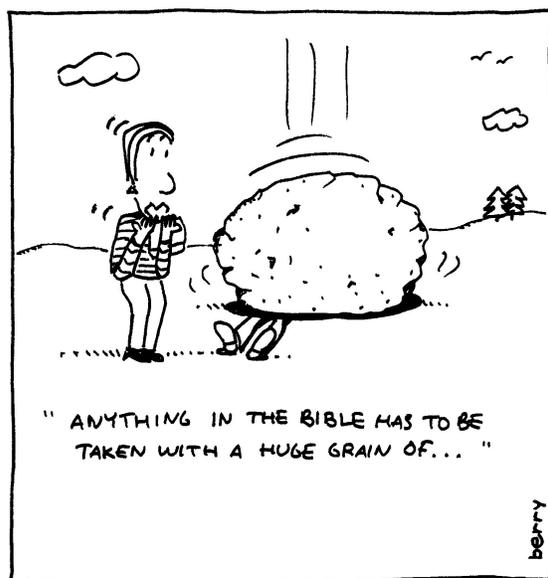
TikTok was pressed by two US senators on [how its content](#) promotes eating disorders. In a letter to TikTok's CEO, the two lawmakers said they found reports of how the platform was affecting its young user base deeply disturbing, and asked for an estimate on how many users had been exposed to content promoting self-harm. The senators even gave TikTok a deadline of March 9 for answering, which suggests some action to hold TikTok more accountable may be on the horizon.

Roblox [came under fire](#) this month when it was revealed that players were interacting with virtual concentration camps during their gaming sessions. This mode was, apparently, just as horrifying than it sounds. Roblox has acted to remove the offensive material from all user's experience, but this is just the latest in a string of content oversight failures by the company, whose target demo is kids 16 and under.

The trial of [two people](#) in Finland has captured the attention of Christians all over the world. Both Christians face possible jail time over a pamphlet on marriage that was first published in 2004. This case will set a precedent over what types of religious speech will be tolerated going forward in that country. Some observed that while some examples of “cancel culture” over religious speech seem extreme in the US, at least there is no threat of jail time for expressing certain beliefs.

Conversation starters:

- ❖ Do you think there are negative attitudes toward Christian beliefs in the United States? Why or why not?
- ❖ What are the consequences for certain types of religious expression in other countries?
- ❖ What should count as protected speech, and who should get to decide?



War, continued from page 2

No one has been drafted since 1973, just before the end of the Vietnam War. But now, with the invasion of Ukraine, some young people are genuinely concerned about being inducted. I know the feeling, since I was drafted into the service in 1968. Getting the letter from the United States government and brings to life those “Uncle Sam Wants You” posters. It gives you a genuine jolt and you know your life is about to change dramatically. Your freedom to determine your own future — at least in the near term — is gone and you become “Government Issue” (a GI). I’ve used the experience as an illustration of I Corinthians 6:19, “*you are not your own.*” When you are in the military, especially during wartime, you are definitely not your own; you belong to the US.

War always creates uncertainty and fear but, on the heels of Covid, and the uncertainty and fear it cause, the impact of an extended war in Eastern Europe will only make matters worse. We may be able to shield our little kids from the news about the war for awhile and we should attempt to do that. But if it continues for very long or, even worse, if Putin decides to extend his reach, it will be hard to conceal.

So, how do we talk about war to our kids? If they are young — say, 7 or 8 — just keep it simple, reassure them and don’t get into details. I wouldn’t turn on the news in their presence. Of course, you can’t control what they might hear at school or from their friends. If they come home with information, do your best to downplay it. And, my mother’s mantra, quoting Matthew 24:6, “Jesus said there will always be wars and rumors of wars,” was strangely comforting to me as a young boy. It’s worth a try.

Meanwhile, especially when talking to older kids, I would suggest you be clear about the horror of war but also explain that it’s inevitable. Ecclesiastes 9:18 says it well: “*Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.*” We’re seeing that play out on the world stage as we speak. America’s involvement in war may be motivated by many things, some honorable, some, perhaps, not so honorable. In any case, it’s a reality all must live with. As Solomon says, “...*a time for war, and a time for peace*” (Ecclesiastes 3:8).