

April 14, 2024

# The View

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

*“This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it...”*

Psalm 118:24

## 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 five 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 when it is passed.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.*

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

*Auditorium: Faith in the Minor Prophets*

*Young Adult Class (room 12): Walking by Faith*

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

*Preaching Today: David Posey*

*Cloud of Witnesses X: "Faith is a Race"*

*Hebrews 11:39 – 12:3*

*Livestream at 9:30 & 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>*

#### Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

*Improving Our Singing (Auditorium)*

#### Additional Classes

*High School Class, 5 PM on Sundays @ David & Christie Posey's home*

*Young people monthly meeting (middle school): contact David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com))  
or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))*

*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.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Men's Bible Study: 7 to 8 AM*

*Bel Air Market on Bidwell in Folsom. "Iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17). Mentoring (Titus 2:1-6).*

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

*Classes: same as Sunday 9:30 AM*

Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom.

# How Does One Become a Gospel Preacher?

BY MARK W. WHITE

**H**OW DOES ONE BECOME A GOSPEL PREACHER? IS THERE A CALLING FROM GOD WHICH ONE SHOULD BE EXPECTING? Must one attend a Seminary which dispenses diplomas and certification that this man is now a minister? Is preaching a profession, like law or medicine? In reality, these are very good questions. Just how does one become a preacher? Just how does a church know who to accept as a preacher?

We must first understand just what a preacher is, according to the Scriptures. The apostle Paul describes the “servant of the Lord” in 2 Timothy 2:24-26— “The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (NASB) These verses not only describe some of the qualities of a preacher, but they also give us some insight into his work. The books of First and Second Timothy, as well as the book of Titus, fleshes out the total picture of the man who does the “work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:5). Every member of the church must give careful and studious thought to these books. They will

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clear up misunderstandings of what a God-approved preacher is to do with himself and the Word of God. In fact, the church must look to inspiration, rather than to human wisdom, to learn what a real preacher is and does.

So, who is responsible for developing, encouraging and training such men to preach the Gospel? Some brethren have expected “Christian colleges” to do this. Men enroll in a course of study in these human institutions which prepares them for ministry. They matriculate through a curriculum, receive a diploma from a brotherhood school that says they are now preachers, then try to find churches who will take them on as “ministers.” Practically speaking, this is not much different from a denominational seminary and has just as much scriptural authority (which is none) to certify men who will be preachers. This is not how New Testament churches trained and verified Gospel preachers. So, how did they do it?

Paul both shows and tells us how to train preachers. He met Timothy in Lystra. This young man was “well spoken of” among his brethren. Paul invited him to come along with him and sample the work a preacher does (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy accepted, traveled with Paul, heard him preach, observed his manner of life, became his “true child in the faith” (2 Tim. 1:2) and the rest, as they say, is history. A young man of “sincere faith,” Timothy was mentored by Paul and through his hands, became a preacher (2 Tim. 1:5-6). We can imagine the same process was utilized with Titus, who likewise was Paul’s “true child in a common faith” (Tit. 1:4). Like Timothy, Paul entrusted Titus with important work in the Gospel (Tit. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:1-3). Both of them learned to be preachers by preaching. Neither man had a diploma framed and displayed on the wall proclaiming him duly certified to practice his “profession.”

Preachers are produced by older preachers and by churches and elders who give their encouragement and endorsement. Old preachers must love young preachers who are interested in what they are doing. Young preachers must love old preachers and seek out every opportunity to learn from them. Bible study and self-preparation must not be overlooked, of course, but as a Chinese proverb says, “A single conversation across a table with a wise man is worth a month’s study of books.” This was Paul’s way of training preachers.

## Preaching

**I** couldn’t agree more with my Texas friend and brother-in-Christ, Mark White’s article and I wanted to add my “2 cents,” for what it’s worth.

A few weeks back, I wrote an article about the future of preaching here at Folsom since I’m am now “older preacher.” For the record, I do not feel that old and I’m not planning to retire or to quit preaching until Christie tells me I should quit (*grin*). However, it would be irresponsible of me and my fellow elders to ignore the obvious and I do plan to share the pulpit as we’ve done for the past several months.

I won’t repeat what I wrote before other than to say that “preachers don’t grow on trees.” Not as many young men are aiming to be preachers as there were 20-30 years ago. Many of the young men who attended Florida College back then did so intending to preach for a living. Today, FC is a four-year school with several degree programs, not just a landing place for aspiring preachers.

The challenge to find a younger man is even greater for churches in California. People are leaving our beautiful state instead of coming here. Many young preachers have been trained here but then moved out of state. In some cases, it’s due to the cost of living here and sometimes it’s because they have met and married a young lady who hails from another, more cost-friendly state.

We are confident that we’ll find a younger man to help us out at some point, maybe even from within the church. If he’s like me when I first came here, he will see that what we have here is special and want to be a part of it, even if it involves some hardship.

dp

# Boot Camp and Beyond

This weekend has been devoted to our 10<sup>th</sup> annual “Boot Camp,” with classes and events aimed at helping our young people build their faith in Christ. Other churches offer similar events. The Almaden Valley church of Christ, in San Jose, is offering a “Teen Workshop” on May 4<sup>th</sup>. See the flyer below if you are interested in attending.



**ALMADEN VALLEY**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST ANNUAL  
**TEEN WORKSHOP**  
**A FIRM FOUNDATION**

SESSION	LEADER	TOPIC	TIME
1	NICK WOODS	Jesus our Foundation	10:00am - 11:00am
2	MATT VAUGHAN	Jesus our Strength	11:00am - 12:00pm
3	JOSH LEWIS	Jesus our Comfort	1:30pm - 2:30pm
4	KALVIN JOHNS	Jesus our Guide	2:30pm - 3:30pm

**MAY 4, 2024**

Designed for middle school through college ages, join us for an encouraging day of singing, scripture, and study.

**SCHEDULE**  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Break for lunch\*  
1:30pm - 4:00pm

\*Lunch will be provided by individual members.

Please **RSVP** using the QR code below:



For more information, please contact [church@bibleroad.org](mailto:church@bibleroad.org)

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