

April 28, 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: Zac Brown

The Unshakeable Kingdom

Hebrews 12:1-17

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)
or Seth Reagan (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.*

2nd 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.

Persecuted Disciples

BY MIKEY DICKEY

Have you ever thought seriously about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? Do you really know how terrible our Savior's death was? The death of Jesus was one of the most horrific deaths ever recorded in history.

The crucifying of someone is particularly designed to have the person die a very slow and painful death of suffocation and dehydration — until you're basically just a hanging shell of skin. Imagine this: you've helped so many people in your lifetime, from making the blind to see again to helping the lame stand up and jump around but your own people want to put you to death. Your friend betrays you and led you to be put to death and you know about it. Your own people turn against you and want you to die. The thing that is crazy about this is you and the people putting you to death know you are innocent, and they have literally seen you heal all these people. And then to top it all off you are mocked by those who crucify you with a big sign over your head, reading "the king of the Jews." Luke 23:36-38 says,

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

According to historical records, the disciples, following in Jesus' footsteps, were put to death in many different ways; some were even crucified like Jesus. Here is what history tells us about how disciples were killed for their faith.

James the son of Zebedee

The Bible says James was "killed by sword" (Acts 12:2) around 44 A.D. But history also claims he was beheaded by the sword.

John the son of Zebedee

There is not a of information about how he died in the Bible but history claims that when he was sent to Rome to die they took a boiling pot of oil to cook him alive.

Andrew

History claims Andrew died on an X shaped cross at his own request because when they men were going to kill him he said that he is not worthy to be put to death like Jesus.

Bartholomew

After the death of Jesus, history tells us Bartholomew travelled to India to spread the word of God and while there translated the gospel of Matthew into the language of India. Because of this, it is said that Bartholomew was killed by being brutally beaten and then crucified by idolaters.

Thomas

Thomas preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, and served the Lord by teaching the people the word of God. He enraged the pagan priests and suffered a long, painful death by getting stabbed with a spear multiple times.

Philip

Philip is said to have been at Heliopolis in Phrygia when he died. Philip is know to have suffered being scourged and then thrown into prison, then later crucified in 54 A.D.

Matthew

Some think Matthew wrote the book of Hebrews. He lived in Parthia and Ethiopia while it is claimed that he suffered martyrdom, then later being killed by a "halberd" (a spear combined with a battle axe).

James

This may have been the brother of Jesus and the author of the book of James. History claims that at the age of 94 he was beaten and stoned by the Jews and then they crushed his head open by beating him with fullers clubs.

Peter

He was a fisherman born in Bethsaida, in Galilee. Peter is believed to have suffered martyrdom at Rome, and was crucified on a cross upside down at his own request because he was not worthy enough to be crucified like Jesus Christ.

Judas Thaddeus

There is not much known about Judas but it is believed that he was crucified on a cross at Edessa in 72 A.D.

Simon the Zealot

Again there is not a lot known about Simon, but he preached in Mauritania, Africa and was crucified on a cross around 74 A.D.

All of these men died because they were the followers of the one true living God. They paid the ultimate sacrifice because when confronted about their faith in God they didn't deny him but they confessed that Jesus is their Lord and Savior even if they were going to be put to death. All of these men were challenged because they could have said that they don't follow Christ and kept their life. They could have lived out the rest of their days if they lied about not following Christ but they chose Christ and chose a life with him.

Would you do the same? Would you, if you were challenged like that, keep your life or choose God? We are going to be challenged about our faith, everyday even, whether it's somebody challenging us or ourselves doubting God. But we have to stay faithful and not give up on God, because God has never given up on us — he has never even thought about abandoning us. Deuteronomy 31:6 says,

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

"They could have lived out the rest of their days if they lied about not following Christ but they chose Christ and chose a life with him."

“Doth Protest Too Much...”

BY DAVID POSEY

Hamlet’s mother famously said, “*The lady doth protest too much, methinks.*” This line is quoted often although usually out of context (you can look it up). I’m going to join that chorus of misquoters to make a point. The statement “[*he or she*] doth protest too much,” on its face, simply says the person seems to be going overboard with his protest to the degree that you begin to question his motives. If the cause is a worthy one, why go to such an extreme?

Protests have been a part of American life for all its history. But I think we would all agree that many of these current “protests” are out of hand and anything but “peaceful.” What point are people trying to prove by blocking vehicles — including emergency vehicles — from crossing the Golden Gate Bridge? What is achieved by throwing paint on the Mona Lisa? Why would these actors think those actions would accomplish anything?

Ironically, many protesters have no idea what they are actually protesting. For example, protests on college campuses against Israel have reached a fever pitch yet, when interviewed, many of these students have no idea what they are protesting. In one instance, a young lady was asked on camera why she was protesting and, befuddled, she asked her off-camera friend but she couldn’t give an answer either.

It’s amazing that people who take a radical stance on an issue don’t realize that overstating the case is counterproductive to rallying people to their cause. Common sense tells you that gluing yourself to the floor in a museum will confuse and repel people not impress them. We need to think about this when talking to our non-Christian friends.

Overstating the case (“protesting too much”) does not win thoughtful people to the cause. You’ve probably seen photographs of people from the Westboro Baptist Church holding their signs, sometimes in front of elementary schools and other venues. The signs say who is going to hell or who (not what) God hates. One sign I saw said, “pray for more dead soldiers”; they were protesting outside a soldiers’ funeral.

How does that help anyone? How does that draw people to Christ? In fact, and of course, it has the opposite effect.

Overstating the case at protests turns most people off and often causes counter protests. This happened during the pandemic. Some counties in California went way too far with their mandates, lockdowns and claims, with consequences that we are still dealing with in 2024.

This is magnified in the cottage industry called “climate change.” Obviously, the climate changes, all the time. But those who make wild, radical predictions about it frustrate people and that leads to backlash. For example, Al Gore said during a speech at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in

2009 that there was “a 75% chance that the entire north polar ice cap, during some of the summer months, could be completely ice-free within the next five to seven years.” 7 years from 2009 would be 2016, which has come and gone. Others have made similar “end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it” claims that have failed to come true. To state the obvious, it permanently harms credibility of the one who is speaking.

We should be good stewards of the planet we live on.

I’m thankful that certain measures have reduced pollution and that God’s beautiful parks, streams, rivers, lakes and oceans have been protected by reasonable legislation. I’m all for that. But radical climate activists and radical environmentalists do not consider that the earth belongs to God and that he is sustaining it.

Here are just a few of the many passages in the Bible that speak about God’s control of his world.

Psalm 24:1: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Isaiah 40:12: “Who has measured the waters *in the hollow of his hand*, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?”

Psalm 95:4-5: “*In his hand* are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. *The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*”

Colossians 1:16-17: “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and *in him all things hold together.*”

Hebrews 1:3: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, *sustaining all things by his powerful word.* After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

God created the world, he sustains the world and he will destroy the world (II Peter 3:10-11). So alarmist predictions by radical climate change activists, who often have a financial interest in that “industry,” and who “doth protest too much,” should not impress us. Yes, we should clean up our trash, avoid fouling our waterways, support reasonable environmental protection measures and do our best to keep the earth around clean. At the same, we should test all things and steer clear of anyone who “doth protest too much.”

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