

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: John Williams

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Scot Parchman

Assisting: Steve Pool
Kyle Pool

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Trevor Moore

Evening Worship

Song Leader: N/A

Opening Prayer: N/A

Sermon: N/A

Lord's Supper: N/A

Closing Prayer: N/A

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: N/A

Scripture: N/A

Reading: N/A

Invitation: N/A

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes

10 Things About God

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.

April 25, 2021

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304
Phone:
(910) 425-1108
Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Evening 5:00pm

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacons
Steve Pool
John Williams

Volume 33 Issue 4

The
Cape Fear Crier

"Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 12:6

Why Do Men Hate A Loving God?

There are few things more amazing, stupefying, and paradoxical than the animosity many people have towards a loving and compassionate God. "God is love," the beloved apostle John tells us, and indeed manifested that love toward us by sending His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him (1 John 4:8-9). Everyone desires to be loved, and all right thinking people want to live. God provides both -- perfectly and eternally. And yet so many men revile and vilify the God of Heaven. Of course, since they cannot reach God directly, their targets, as in Acts 7, are usually those who believe in God and model their lives after righteousness. His people suffer, but the actual object of malice is God. Why do men so hate God and those who uphold holiness and righteousness?

Some **men hate God because they simply do not understand what love is** (or what "is" is, for that matter). For many, love means doing for me what I want done. God exists, as they see it, to serve them and when God does not deliver what they want, when things in life happen that displease them, they blame God and think that He is uncaring. God does not fit their definition of love, so they hate God. This is one of the reasons the Jews killed Jesus, the loving Son of God. He did not provide them what THEY thought God ought to give them. This is not love, of course, it is pure selfishness, and many men are motivated by nothing more than conceited self-interest. But the Bible says GOD is love, not man, and just as a loving parent often does things that his child does not understand, even so God does the same. Children sometimes erroneously conclude that if his parent does not buy him a toy he impulsively

desires then the parent does not love him. Usually children grow out of this, but some people never mature spiritually to understand the love of God. Our world is full of spiritual toddlers who think God exists to give them whatever new "toy" they capriciously crave. And when genie-God does not grant them their wish -- or worse yet, condemns what they covet -- then they will go wherever they can to find it. Some will drift into esoteric religions like Eastern occultism, Buddhism, Nihilism; some will simply become agnostics or atheists -- the ultimate irresponsible cop-out. But it allows them to believe and do just as they please, which is what they wanted of God in the first place. Unfortunately, for them, God is not that kind of being.

Jesus puts His finger on perhaps the main reason most people hate God: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved" (John 3:19-20). Men hate God because "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Men love to sin -- "darkness" in the Biblical imagery -- and thus light, to them, is "evil" and must be extinguished. So, when Christians, as "the light of world" (mirrors reflecting the image of God), shine their lights brightly, they too, will be vilified. "Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13). Again, it is the ultimate irony: God's people, trying to bring true love, peace, and life to the world -- the very things the world claims it wants -- are the targets of the most malicious slander and loathing on earth. But, actually, the world is living a lie. It claims to want love, peace, and life, but all it wants is to fulfill its own selfish desires, regardless of who might get in the way, or what the consequences of having ones own way might be. This is the very antithesis of New Testament Christianity. God, His word, and His cause will always be hated by darkness-worshipping men. Perhaps an even greater irony -- a joke on the world -- is that their hatred of God and His book is actually a fulfillment of what that very Book says; by their hatred, they are providing another confirmation of the truth of the Christian religion.

Perhaps the greatest mystery of all is not why men hate a loving God, but how can God continue to love men who so hate Him?
-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 4/18/21
Bible Class: 34 A.M. Worship: 52 Wed. B. C.: 23

Family News and Notes

Linda Williams’ mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all have recovered from Covid. Wayne remains in ICU in Baltimore. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins’ parents are dealing with serious health issues. **Jamie Phillips** is caring for his mother and going through a hard time. **Claudia Farrington** is having a difficult time right now. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. Please keep **Barry** and **Melany Hatcher** in your prayers. It is encouraging to see members we have not seen in a while! Let’s remember one another in prayer. We have been blessed thus far that none of our members have had serious complications with Corona Virus, though we have all been affected negatively. Active military: Pray for our active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment’s notice. Remember to pray for their families as well.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Alex Freshley, Lettie Gray, Frances Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen Jennen, John and Linda Williams, the Pollard family, Claudia Farrington, Rick Caldwell, and Thelma Adams.** Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1
Gen 17-18	Gen 19-20	Gen 21-22	Gen 23-24	Gen 25-26	Gen 27-28	Gen 29-30
Ps 116	Ps 117	Ps 118	Ps 119:1-60	119:61-120	119:121-176	Ps 120

Events

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: Wednesday at 7pm. Adult Bible Class only.

Sheffield Drive Lectures: This Saturday, 9-3: lunch provided. Theme: “Biblical Leadership”

Ladies’ Bible Class: Tuesday 10am in the Library.

