

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Scot Parchman

Assisting: Steve Pool
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Gesna Davis

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: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Brynn Hatcher

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes

Moses and the Ten Plagues

I.

II.

III.

July 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

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacons
Steve Pool
John Williams

Volume 34 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

Change in Worship

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:23,24). God wants us to be "true worshippers." True worshippers are those that worship the Lord God "in spirit and in truth."

Today, we hear the cry for "change." One area that is often targeted for change is the worship of the church. Some have openly charged that worship is dry, boring, lifeless, and traditional. The claim is that worship is in need of a major overhaul to avoid losing members, or to attract any new people.

The word "change" is a neutral word. Change might be bad, or it might be good, depending on the situation. Webster's Dictionary defines "change" as "to become or make different; to alter."

But those that make the claim to follow Jesus MUST ask this question, "Is it Scriptural for the church to make any changes in its worship services?" That depends on the type of changes one has in mind. Some changes are acceptable under the right circumstances. If the present worship in which a congregation engages is already in harmony with the Scriptures, then any acceptable changes to such worship would all involve matters of judgment, wisdom, or expediency. Consider a few examples of this kind of change:

1) *Changing the times of services on the first day of the week.* We are commanded to refrain from forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, so out of necessity there must be assemblies (Heb. 10:25). The first century church assembled on the first day of the week in order to worship (Acts 20:7). Since the specific time of day for the Lord's day assemblies is not designated in the New Testament [one could infer from Acts 20 that the worship assembly was Sunday night after a full days work], then the leaders of a local church have the right

to choose which time(s) of assembly is in the best interest of that particular congregation. Thus, it would be acceptable for the same leaders to make a decision to change the times of the church's Sunday services.

2) *Changing the order.* Because the New Testament does not specify the order in which we are to engage in the five different acts of worship (praying, Lord's supper, singing, giving, preaching), it would be acceptable to change the order of these, and no harm would be done. Changing the order of such Scriptural acts would not cause them to cease being "in spirit and in truth."

3) *Changing the length of services.* Nothing is said in the New Testament about how long worship services are to last. Therefore, if the elders/brothers of a local church decided to change the duration of services from what it was in the past, this in and of itself would not do anything to prevent the church from worshipping in spirit and in truth.

4) *Changing the place of assembly.* The church must assemble (Heb. 10:25). Just where it is to do this is nowhere specified in the Bible. Each congregation is at liberty to choose what location is most expedient for its assemblies. This might change from time to time, and such change would in no way hinder the church from worshipping Scripturally.

There are, however, some cases in which we have no authority to change the worship of the church.

1) *The purpose of the worship assembly.* The purpose of our gathering to worship is to pay homage to God, to give Him honor, praise and glory. Our attention during our worship is to be on the Lord and His word. Worship is not to be entertainment or a show that is "put on" in order to please men.

2) *The time to partake of the Lord's Supper.* Jesus commanded His followers to break bread (1 Cor. 11:24-26). Acts 20:7 shows us when this is to be done -- on "the first day of the week." There is no authority in the New Testament for the church to have communion on any other day of the week. To partake of it on a different day is to act without divine authority, and thus it is wrong (2 John 9; Col. 3:17).

3) *The sex of the preacher in a mixed assembly.* God does not permit women "to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim. 2:12). Thus, only brothers in Christ are permitted to preach in a gathering when both men and women are present. True, in the denominational world, women often preach when men are present, but such is a clear violation of the Bible's teaching.

4) *The type of music that we are to offer to God.* God has charged His children to praise Him with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God is completely without New Testament authority, and thus is prohibited. So, any cry to bring instruments into the worship of the church is simply not in harmony with the Bible.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 7/18/21

Bible Class: 35

A.M. Worship: 52

Wed. B. C.: 43

Family News and Notes

Scot Parchman's boss, **Wayne Ghee** passed away. Close friend to Becky Pool, **Bill Kurfurst**, has a serious medical issue. **Debbie Smith's** parents' are not doing well at this time. **Brent Pollard's** condition continues to deteriorate. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins' parents, are dealing with serious health issues. Her sister-in-law **Rhonda Wain** needs prayers as well. **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. Let's remember one another in prayer. 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, Deborah Ross Alex Freshley, Frances Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen & Sarah 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

July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31
Jos 16-18	Jos 19-21	Ruth	1Sam 1-3	1Sam 4-6	1Sam 7-9	1Sa 10-12
Ps 24	Ps 25	Ps 26	Ps 27	Ps 28	Ps 29	Ps 30

Events

Ladies Bible Class: Tuesday 10:00 am, Room 203

Regular Bible Classes: Children 6th grade and under are in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning

