

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Dustin Pool

Assisting: Dale Wiles
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

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
Gideon & Jehovah

I.

II.

III.

IV.

August 15, 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 7

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

The Silence of the Scriptures

In his argument that Jesus cannot be a priest on earth, the writer of Hebrews not only appeals to what is stated in the Scriptures but also to what is **not** stated in the Scriptures. The inspired author wrote: “*For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah: of which tribe Moses **spake nothing** concerning priesthood*” (Heb. 7:14). In earlier verses of Hebrews (1:1,2; 2:1-3; 3:7-11; 6:13-18) the writer firmly establishes that there is absolute importance in what the Lord has spoken, but in Hebrews 7:14 he makes known the importance of the Lord's silence as well. Since the Lord, through His servant Moses, was silent about any of Judah's members' becoming a priest, it is clear that no member of the tribe of Judah was authorized to become a priest. Having stated that the tribe of Levi would yield God's earthly priests (Num. 3:12), there was no need for the Lord to further prohibit descendants from any of the other tribes from serving as priests. God had already given authorization to the ones who should fill this role, and thus His silence excluded all others.

The silence of the Scriptures does not authorize! The Hebrews writer and recipients accepted this, but is sadly rejected by many brethren today. A new approach of studying the Bible (or hermeneutic) is now threatening to detour many from the old paths. One aspect of this New Hermeneutic essentially states that where the Bible does not specifically condemn it permits. As can be imagined, when brethren, bent on change, interpret silence as permission, all sorts of damage occurs: elders charged to protect the flock drop their guard against evil, fellowship lines are expanded, the instrument is wheeled into the “modern” worship, and many more monstrosities occur. The very sight of such abominable changes must make Satan sit back in repose as a willing witness to what he expects will be a rebellion against God likened to the ones about which we read in the pages of the Bible (Gen. 6; Exodus 32; Num. 14; etc.).

The only thing that can come to the aid of the Lord's church is a renewed dedication to obeying the Lord's Word without adding to or taking from His Message (Rev. 22:18-19). This determination should begin with a proper understanding of Biblical silence. The silence of the Scriptures must be properly respected as a limitation, not recklessly disregarded as a license.

Silence in general is respected by almost everyone. How many have entered a door on which the words are posted "Authorized Personnel Only," reasoning that since the sign does not explicitly state that we cannot enter that such silence must be permission for us to enter? How many of us, when stopped for speeding, have used as our excuse that there was no sign stating that one may not drive 90 mph, and therefore such silence must be permission for us to travel at such a high speed? Chances are that most of us would be embarrassed to give such foolish explanation for our actions with a straight face. But, when it comes to religious matters, individuals are not embarrassed at all (they do not even blush, Jer. 6:15). Instead, it seems as if pride fills the heart because they were able to find "loopholes" in Scripture and publish those findings abroad. The actions of some brethren are surely reminiscent of the Athenians who "spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21).

Jesus sought to stress that the silence of the Scriptures does not authorize. In His temptations by the deceiver, Jesus was propositioned to fall down and worship the devil (Matt. 4:9). Jesus' answer to this temptation is particularly significant; He said: *"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* (Matt. 4:10). This response differs from its reference, Deuteronomy 6:13, in just one respect. In Deuteronomy 6:13, God does not explicitly state that He is the **only** Being to be worshipped. In fact the word "only" is omitted or italicized in most English translations. The point is that Jesus did not take such an omission (or silence) as authority to worship the devil. It would have been an unnecessary exercise for the Lord to announce a decree stating: "Thou shalt not worship Satan." Similarly, it would have been just as unnecessary for God to tell Noah not to use oak, pine, maple, cedar, or any other wood to build the ark. In both cases, God clearly stated what the authorized activity was and everything contrary to this authorized activity was, therefore, unauthorized.

Jeremiah said it best, *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jer. 10:23). The way most men study the Bible is to assume authority in the Lord's silence, but all must learn that the silence of the Scripture does not authorize. Such is plainly taught by God's precious precepts.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 8/8/21

Bible Class: 35

A.M. Worship: 62

Wed. B. C.: 32

Family News and Notes

Vickie Carver is at home doing PT. **Debbie Smith's** parents' are not doing well at this time. **Brent Pollard** has been moved to a nursing home in Athens, GA, and is improving some. 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

August 15	August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21
1 Ki 1-2	1 Ki 3-4	1 Ki 5-7	1 Ki 8-9	1 Ki 10-11	1 Ki 12-13	1 Ki 14-17
Ps 45	Ps 46	Ps 47	Ps 48	Ps 49	Ps 50	Ps 51

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

Sunday Fellowship Meal: Sunday, September 5, after the morning worship.

