

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Brynn Hatcher
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes *The Christian Standard*

I. The _____

II. The _____

III. The _____

November 7, 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

Deacon
John Williams

Volume 35 Issue 6

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Spiritual Blindness

Physical blindness is a handicap that no right thinking person would wish upon himself or anyone else. It is indeed a tragedy when a person cannot see the beauty of God's marvelous creation. An even greater tragedy, however, is one who **can** see, but chooses **not** to see.

The Jews of Jesus' day were eagerly awaiting the coming of the Messiah, but then refused to accept Him when He came. Such an attitude of the people prompted Jesus to say, “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matt. 13:14-15).

There is no greater tragedy than that of one who chooses to be willfully ignorant of God's Word. The Jews of Christ's day **saw** His miracles and **heard** His preaching and concluded that He was no different from any other man. Likewise, there are many today who hear the Gospel message in its purity and yet refuse to accept what they have heard. Many today profess to believe in the Bible as God's authoritative Word, but continue to stubbornly uphold the doctrines and creeds of men. When such a one is confronted with verses of Scripture that contradicts his erroneous doctrine, he closes his eyes to the truth and says, “I just do not see it that way.” The truth of the matter is that he is refusing to see at all -- he is willingly blind to the truth.

It is a challenge to keep oneself from becoming spiritually blind. Such must be done, however, if heaven is to become a reality and the soul is to be saved. Let us note some areas where many who claim to believe the Bible have become spiritually blind.

1. "I just don't believe that baptism is necessary for one to be saved." The apostle Peter had the privilege of preaching the Gospel on Pentecost in Jerusalem, 33 A.D., and said to those who inquired what they must do to be saved, "...*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (Acts 2:38). Peter also spoke of the ark, "*wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water*" (1 Peter 3:20), and said "*the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us*" (1 Peter 3:21). Jesus said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). Only the spiritually blind will reject water baptism as a perquisite to salvation.

2. "I believe there is but one Christ, but I just don't believe there is only one church." Only tradition and prejudice can so blind one to the truth. First, Christ promised to "*build*" His church (Matt. 16:18). His church was "*purchased*" with His blood (Acts 20:28). The apostle Paul affirms that Christ "*the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all*" (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ has promised to save only His body (Eph. 5:23), of which there is but one (Eph. 4:4). In view of such Scriptures, how can one profess to love and honor Christ while believing that the Lord's church (body) is unimportant? One cannot have the head without the body, or the body without the head! Christ and His church cannot be separated because of man's whims and wishes.

3. "I just believe that it is more meaningful to partake of the Lord's Supper only once a month." How can one profess to love the Lord and then think that what he believes is more important than what God says? An approved example, which is as binding as a command, is found in the book of Acts 20:7. Luke records, "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight*" (Acts 20:7). Ask the same denominational preachers and leaders if it is also "more meaningful" to give only once a month! Most will affirm, and rightly so, that the "*first day of the week*" in 1 Corinthians 16:2 means just that -- the first day of every week. It is indeed inconsistent, is it not, that many believe "*the first day of the week*" in Acts 20:7 can mean monthly, quarterly, or even annually.

4. "I just believe that instrumental music sounds better." Notice that the Scriptures commands us to sing -- not play (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3). There is Bible authority to sing, but no Bible authority to "make music" any way one pleases.

It will be sad in the Day of Judgment for those who have chosen to be spiritually blind to God's glorious truth!

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 10/31/21

Bible Class: 35

A.M. Worship: 47

Wed. B. C.: 24

Family News and Notes

Tiffany Oliver's mother passed away last week of cancer in Atlanta. **Debbie Smith's** parents' are not doing well at this time, especially her dad. **Brent Pollard** is now at home in GA, and is improving. 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 aunt just passed away and 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						
Nov 7	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13
Jer 19-21	Jer 22-24	Jer 25-27	Jer 28-30	Jer 31-33	Jer 34-36	Jer 37-39
Ps 127	Ps 128	Ps 129	Ps 130	Ps 131	Ps 132	Ps 133

Events

Regular Bible Classes: Children 6th grade and under are in the Fellowship Hall, and High School students are in room 11.

Mens' Lunch: Friday at 11 @ Golden Corral

Gospel Meeting: Nov 7-10 @ Oak Forest in Goldsboro. 7pm weeknights.

