

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Patrick Floyd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Brynn Hatcher

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Rice

Sermon Notes
Enemy of the Truth

I. Enemy by _____

II. Enemy by _____

III. Truth is Meant to _____

March 20, 2022

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
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacon
John Williams

Volume 36 Issue 12

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 Necessity of Biblical Authority

Matthew 21:1-18,23-27, Matthew records Jesus entering Jerusalem for the last time before his death. This event is commonly called the Lord's “triumphal entry.” After coming into the city, He went into the temple, and there He saw the corruption of those who took advantage of worshippers. As a result, in righteous indignation, He overthrew the tables and ran out all the animals and merchants. The next day, as he was teaching in the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to Him and asked: “...*By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?*”

Jesus addressed their question of authority by clearly showing that authority comes from either heaven or men. Therefore, the issue of authority is certainly a subject that people today must address as well. Several pertinent questions come to mind when the subject of authority arises. By what authority do we meet on the Lord's day? By what authority do we sing and pray and teach? There are several relevant points that everyone needs to learn from the text of Matthew 21:23-24.

The Lord's people are obligated to live so as to please God. We learn from Hebrews 11:6 that it is impossible to please God without faith and that we “...*walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Cor. 5:7).

The chief priests and elders recognized that authority was necessary as can be ascertained by their question. The way many people act today is that they have never heard of the principle of authority. When it comes to religious activities, authority is a foreign concept. Authority is only for the secular world! When the simple question of authority in regards to religious activities is brought up, the querist is looked on as though mad! According to them, there is no standard except what one feels within their own heart. Throughout the ages most people have done what was right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6). Yet, God demands we have authority for all we say and do. Colossians 3:17 says, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus....*” To do something “in the name of the Lord” means that we act “by the authority of the Lord” — as the

Lord has authorized. When the police come to your door and say, “Open in the name of the law,” we understand that means “by the authority of the law.” When Peter and John healed the lame man in the Lord's name, they did so by the Lord's authority (Acts 4:7-10). It is in Jesus' name that we will be saved (Acts 4:12). It is in His name that we will be judged (John 12:48).

The Scriptures are filled with examples of the necessity of authority.

1. Cain and Abel (Heb. 11:4). Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), Abel had to offer according to the instructions or authority of God. For Cain's offering to be rejected, he offered that which was not according to faith, i.e., his offering was not authorized.
2. Noah and the ark (Gen. 6:14-16). Had Noah changed or ignored any of God's instructions, he would not have followed God's authority. Men may ridicule and mock the example of authority, but that does not change the truth of it.
3. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2). These priests had no authority to offer fire that did not come from the altar. However, they offered “strange” fire (unauthorized fire) and paid for their sin with their lives.
4. King Saul and the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:3-23). Saul was not authorized to offer a sacrifice. He offered one anyway and was rejected by God. Why was this the case? God has always demanded respect for his Word because it brings with it God's authority!

Not just any authority is adequate. Many look to the pope, the church, the pastor, a creed, council, synod, or conference for authority. These people or doctrines are not the source of authority. Pleasing God does not come from thoughts such as, “I like it,” or “It does a lot of good.” Our concern must be what “God likes,” “what God wants,” and “what pleases God.”

Jesus asked the priests and elders by what authority John baptized (Matt. 21:25). Jesus summed up the issue of authority in this simple question. Authority either comes from heaven or it comes from men. The consequences of the answer to this simple question are profound. If one's authority comes from heaven, it stands approved of God. If one's authority comes from men, it stands condemned of God.

If we want to be approved and pleasing to God, then we must refuse to participate in practices that are not authorized in the Bible, but instead are based on human authority! Human teaching (the doctrines and commandments of men) makes worship vain/useless (Matt. 15:9,13). If we desire God's approval, we must abide in the teaching/doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). God's curse rests upon those who teach differently (Gal. 1:6-9). Human wisdom does not please God, obeying Him by what His word teaches does (Pro. 3:5,6).

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 3/13/22

Bible Class: 27

A.M. Worship: 54

Wed. B. C.: 28

Family News and Notes

Vicky Carver is now back at home. **Trey Callihan** has been battling a severe spell of vertigo. **Alex Elliot** broke her leg and is still trying to recuperate, while also dealing with the loss of income. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. Let's remember one another in prayer.

Pray for our world leaders at this time. Much of the 82nd Airborne is already in Europe to support our allies and in case war breaks out. Active military: Pray for all 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. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross, the Davis family.** Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Mar 20	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26
2 Tim	Titus	Heb 1-2	Heb 3-4	Heb 5-6	Heb 7-8	Heb 9-10
Ps 79	Ps 80	Ps 81	Ps 82	Ps 83	Ps 84	Ps 85

Events

Gospel Meeting: Clinton Church of Christ. March 27-31. 7:00pm weeknights

B & G Workday: Saturday, April 9th, 9am till

Ladies' Tea: Saturday May, 7th at 10am. Home of Jennifer Hatcher. Bring a teacup!

