

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Lord's Table:
Presiding: John Patchell

Assisting: Ron Austin
Kyle Pool

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

Canned Drinks

Sermon Notes *Intentional Parenting*

I. Set the _____

II. Warn of _____

III. Minimize _____

IV. Stress _____

February 26, 2023

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

Volume 40 Issue 9

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Faith: Believing In The Truth Substantiated By Evidence

By Jeff Miller Ph.D.

During a Q&A period of one of my seminars, an atheist asked a question that I have often received when discussing science with naturalists: “How can faith (belief without evidence) be used to arrive at truth?” Atheists are often told by theists that belief in God is not about evidence. It is a blind trust, regardless of the evidence—“fideism.” The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “fideism” as “reliance on faith rather than reason in pursuit of religious truth.” 1 By faith, they mean a “firm belief in something for which there is no proof.” 2 To many in Christendom, biblical faith is such an idea.

Imagine an empty container representing the truth on a subject. A person “pours” evidence into the container, trying to fill it to the brim and arrive at the complete truth on a matter. When it comes to religious faith, however, according to many in Christendom, the container cannot be completely filled. The space that is left at the top of the container, between the evidence and the brim, must be filled in with blind “faith.” So, according to them, belief in God, for instance, rests ultimately, not on the evidence, but irrational faith.

In truth, the Bible does not so define faith. The Greek word for faith used in the New Testament (pistis) is not a mystical word only applicable when discussing religious faith. It is the Grecian word equivalent to the English words “belief” or “trust.” 3 When we “believe,” “trust,” or “have faith in” someone, that faith is based on evidence. If a parent, for example, has proven himself to be trustworthy, we believe him. If we do not know a person and have no evidence to substantiate his integrity, to believe in

him would be a blind (evidence-less) faith, which would be irrational and unwise. Scripture incessantly makes the point that we should come to a knowledge of the truth based on the evidence that has been provided to us. According to Romans 1:20, so much evidence has been provided to come to the truth of God, that not to come to the right conclusion is “without excuse.” We can know the truth—not merely accept it “on faith”—and it will set us free (John 8:32). We should test or “prove all things” before believing them, only holding to that which is good or right (1 Thessalonians 5:21). As did the “fair- minded” Bereans of Acts 17, God wants us to search for evidence that substantiates a claim before blindly believing it (verse 11). Since many false teachers are in the world, He tells us to “not believe every spirit, but test the spirits” before believing them (1 John 4:1). Unlike blind faith (i.e., fideism)—which pits itself against reason 4 —Paul believed in establishing truth using reason (Acts 26:25). In fact, Jesus told His audience to not believe Him if He did not substantiate His claims with evidence (John 10:37).

The blind “faith” idea is unbiblical. The biblical portrait of faith would be more like evidence being “poured” into our truth container. The “evidence” rises to the top of the container and begins pouring over the top. Where “faith” comes in is when we look at the truth, verified by evidence, and choose whether or not to believe it. Most do not and will not (Matthew 7:13-14). It is their own choice, but it is not because God has not provided enough evidence to come to the truth. Rather, they have rejected the evidence which is readily available, due to their own personal motives.

As is always the case when I receive the question that the young man asked at the seminar, he was shocked when I respond that I do not agree that faith is “belief without evidence”—that the Christian faith is in fact demanded by the evidence. In the “Christians Can Be Confident about Creation” seminar, we will explore many of these evidences.

ENDNOTES
1 “Fideism” (2015), Merriam-Webster On-line Dictionary, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fideism>, emp. added.
2 “Faith” (2017), Merriam-Webster On-line Dictionary, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith>.
3 William Arndt, F.W. Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker (1979), A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press), second edition revised, pp. 662-664.
4 “Fideism.”

By the Numbers

Attendance 2/19/23
Bible Class: 75
A.M. Worship: 70
Wed. B. C.: 29

Family News and Notes

John Patchell’s niece is struggling with her lupus. **Kim Perkins** will have surgery soon. **Solomon Harrington, Geraldine Harrington’s** son, is struggling with some health problems, but he has gotten some better. **Nazreen Sahib**, coworker of **Jennifer Hatcher**, has stage 4 cancer. **John Williams** is slowly recovering from knee surgeries and a broken leg. **Chuck Perkins’** coworker, **Mark Thibeault** is not doing well at this time. **Linda Williams’** mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry**, are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. She will be having surgery this week. Let’s remember one another in prayer.
Pray for our world leaders at this time. 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 5 active duty members here at Cape Fear.
Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4
Num 11-12	Num 13-14	Num 15-16	Num 17-18	Num 19-20	Num 21-22	Num 23-24
Ps 57	Ps 58	Ps 59	Ps 60	Ps 61	Ps 62	Ps 63

Events

Christian Evidences Seminar: March 3-5. Jeff Miller speaking. Flyer on the bulletin board. Flyers on the table to hand out as well. Please sign up to bring food and drinks.
Mens’ Fellowship: March 11. Gold Hill Road church of Christ

