

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Dale Wiles
Sibio Farrington

Sermon: Barry Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ron Austin

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

Canned pasta

Sermon Notes
When in the Valley

1.

11.

111.

April 2, 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 41 Issue 1

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Unbelief

From the beginning of time, man has had a problem with unbelief in regard to the commands and warnings of Jehovah. The first man and his mate ate the forbidden fruit, even after God instructed them NOT to eat it. Apparently, they preferred the words of Satan rather than those of the Almighty. They simply did not believe God meant what He said.

The Israelites found themselves wandering outside the promised land for forty years. Why? Because they refused to believe what they had been told by their Heavenly Father. In fact, the sin of unbelief continued to plague God's people throughout Old Testament history. Their falling away was a direct consequence of not believing God and His promises and warnings.

Things were no different during the days of Christ and the Apostles. From the early beginnings of Christianity to the Lord's warnings for five of the seven churches of Asia, to modern-day congregations that choose to ignore the Bible pattern of worship and its teachings on grace, faith, and fellowship, many of God's children still disbelieve Him in regard to what will happen if they continue to depart from His Word.

Unbelief is the rejection of testimony, even though the testimony is supported by sufficient evidence. It is the closing of our eyes against the truth and refusing to accept the Word of God as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Often, unbelief arises from a desire to shift responsibility placed upon us by the Word of God, which, in turn, leads us to do whatever we desire, regardless of what the Bible says. Unbelief is the occasion of all sin and the very bond of iniquity. It darkens and destroys. It makes the world a moral desert wherein no divine footsteps are heard. Unbelief on the part of anyone closes to that person the door of Heaven, even as the door of Caanan was closed to the Israelites, “*who could not enter in because of unbelief.*”

Five things that cause unbelief:

1. **An evil heart** — The heart can become so set on evil as to refuse

to accept the truth. The heart is evil when it cherishes evil. *“From the heart comes forth evil thoughts”* (Matt. 15:19).

2. **Ignorance or blindness of mind** — Those guilty of such were the murderers of Christ, along with all who close their eyes, stop their ears, and harden their hearts to the truth. It is not the case that they cannot believe — they simply refuse to accept that which they know to be right. Israel had an abundance of evidence. They had seen the power manifested by God in many ways. But they were bent on evil and desired to turn back, in spite of all that Jehovah had said and done.
3. **The love of sin** — The Gospel demands the full obedience of every human for Christ. Those who profess to be Christians must come out of the world and be lovers of God rather than lovers of pleasure. But because some do not want to give up the pleasure of sin, they refuse to believe and continue in unbelief. The reason so many are out of Christ is because of their love of sin and refusal to believe that God means what He says.
4. **The influence of the Devil** — The parable of the sower presents a powerful lesson as it explains the seed that fell by the way side: *“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved”* (Luke 8:12). It is not that they could not understand. They chose to disbelieve and let the devil fill their ears with what they wanted to hear. They heard the truth, but turned away and refused to believe.
5. **The pride of human nature** — All those who love the truth believe the Bible doctrine of faith and the fact that it humbles the soul. But the love of honor and social standing leads to a refusal to accept the truth. “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble” (James 4:6).

God pronounced that *“Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them”* (Deut. 27:26). And, “cursed” also is he *“that continueth not in all things which are written...to do them”* (Gal. 3:10). Christians are also to understand that if we profess to “part” of the law, we are “debtor to the whole law” (Gal. 5:3). It is taught in James 2:10 that if one keeps the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is “guilty of all.” Yet, so many seem to disbelieve that we are to accept and do “the whole council of God.” They shut their eyes and close their ears to the reality that a refusal to accept and practice even one of God’s laws will result in their being rejected by Him in the last day.

Failure to believe that God means what He says is the biggest mistake a responsible person can make. One can lose his soul by simply ignoring the consequences of not personally bringing others to Christ or forsaking the assembly, or going beyond God’s teaching on fellowship, acceptable worship, instrumental music, marriage and divorce, and all other commandments given to us by our Heavenly Father.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 3/26/23

Bible Class: 35

A.M. Worship: 63

Wed. B. C.: 25

Family News and Notes

John Patchell’s niece is struggling with her lupus. **Barry Hatcher** had a successful procedure Friday. **Solomon Harrington, Geraldine Harrington’s** son, is struggling with some health problems. **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, Sandra Hedgepeth**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8
Jos 16-18	Jos 19-21	Jos 22-24	Jud 1-3	Jud 4-6	Jud 7-9	Jud 10-12
Ps 92	Ps 93	Ps 94	Ps 95	Ps 96	Ps 97	Ps 98

Events

See Bulletin board for the latest events! There are a number of gospel meetings in April we want to support.

Men’s Lunch: Friday at 11am @ Golden Corral.

