

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: John Patchell

Assisting: Ron Austin
Wink Oxendine

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Cameron Christian

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 *Love in the Home*

I. _____ *Love Your* _____

II. _____ *Love Your* _____

III. _____ *Love Your* _____

August 6, 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 42 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

Which Way?

As individuals, and as the church, we are daily made aware of the many choices that must be made in choosing the way we will travel. What will be our guide? How can we know if the way we are traveling will lead us ultimately to that eternal home with our loving Father and the redeemed of all the ages?

Jesus himself identified the two ways every person must choose between and where each of them leads. He said, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* (Matt. 7:13-14). Most right thinking people would desire to enter in at the strait and narrow way leading to life everlasting. If so, the question still remains, what will be our guide? Are we left to our own ingenuity? Are we clever enough to guide our own footsteps? Careful! The Preacher wrote in Proverbs, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Prov. 14:12).

The narrow way must be walked with much care because it is constricted by many difficulties and troubles of life. If we are careless and go our own way, the narrow way will be missed. Moses is an example of how easy it can be to slip. As long as Moses followed God's instructions, all went well, but then Moses substituted his own way in place of the way commanded by God. The multitude were in Kadesh and there was no water to be found. The children of Israel, even the whole congregation gathered themselves together against Moses and Aaron. They went up to the door of the tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord spoke to Moses, commanding him to, *“Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink”* (Numbers 20:7,8). Moses and Aaron gathered the

multitude together at the rock, and he upbraided them, *“Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?”* Moses then struck the rock twice with his rod. The water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock did as well (Numbers 20:10,11). Unfortunately, Moses took credit for bringing forth water instead of giving honor to God and he struck the rock rather than speaking to it as God had instructed. As a result, God punished Moses severely saying, *“... Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them”* (Numbers 20:12).

It is plain to see. There is only one way. It is a narrow way, to be sure, but it is God’s way. We, nor Moses or any other great man, cannot substitute our own way. No matter how good and practical our way may seem (Naaman). When God gives us the way to go, every other way is excluded.

Another simple example is the command given to Noah. *“Make thee an ark of gopher wood, rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch”* (Gen. 6:14). What was Noah’s reaction? He went the way commanded by God. *“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he”* (Gen. 6:22). As a faithful follower of God, Noah would not use any other wood in the place of gopher wood. He may have wanted to, but he loved God so much he would not question His command in any way. It makes you wonder why anyone would question God’s way in any regard. Surely God who created the heavens and the earth knows what is best. When He tells us the way to go, will we be like Moses and assert our own will or Noah and humbly and lovingly follow God?

Can anyone assume that the wall of Jericho would have fallen down flat had not Joshua and his men of war followed the instructions of the Lord exactly (Joshua 6)? Would they be justified in going around the city once? And instead of doing this for six days as commanded by the Lord, decide to do it only for five days? After all, they might have reasoned, “We need a day of rest before we go around seven times on the seventh day.” We can easily resolve the error in such reasoning. The wall fell down because they followed the way the Lord had ordained without exception.

From these accounts, we can draw this conclusion. If God gives us directions to follow in the accomplishment of His will on any matter, we are to execute that action exactly as He directs without adding to or subtracting from the action. In other words, when God gives us a specific way to accomplish His will, any other specific way (ordained by man) would be excluded and would cause a person to leave the narrow pathway described above. This is sometimes referred to as the “Law of Exclusion.” We should all be encouraged to examine all our actions in the light of the inspired word of God. The answers are there for all to read and apply to our lives so we can enter in at the strait gate and travel the narrow way, because that way leads us to life.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 7/30/23

Bible Class: 39

A.M. Worship: 64

Wed. B. C.: 45

Family News and Notes

Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s dad, is undergoing cancer therapy. **Geraldine Cook** is having some health challenges. **Carlee Pool, Kyle Pool’s** grandmother, is doing some better but please keep her in prayers. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **John Williams** is doing much better. His last knee surgery has been rescheduled for August 22nd. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. 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

Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11	Aug 12
Eze 7-9	Eze 10-12	Eze 13-15	Eze 16-18	Eze 19-21	Eze 22-24	Eze 25-27
Ps 36	Ps 37	Ps 38	Ps 39	Ps 40	Ps 41	Ps 42

Events

One Day Lectureship - August 26th. Loris, SC. Flyer on bulletin board.

Education Program Fellowship - Aug 27th, for all students, teachers & parents

Wax Museum Night - Aug 30th. Bring ice cream, cookies & drinks

