

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Sibio Farrington

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Kyle Pool
 Ben Grant

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: John Patchell

Pantry Item
Rice

Sermon Notes

Essential Elements For A Strong Church

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

September 17, 2023

Volume 42 Issue 12

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

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Speaking The Truth In Love

The title is a quote from Ephesians 4:15. It is the quote one will find at the top of Cape Fear’s website. It is an effort, to let those who visit know that the motive behind what they will see and hear on the Lord’s day is love. This is good and right because we should have love as our motive for teaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. We should be seen as people who love!

There are three good points in this short phrase (Eph. 4:15) from the Bible:

1. The truth must be spoken. Our religion is a *taught* religion (John 6:44-45). People must hear the Word taught to have faith in God and in Jesus the Christ (Rom. 10:17; Acts 4:4; Acts 18:8). Therefore we are commissioned, “*Go...into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15). The early Christians did just that (Acts 8:4-5), and within a thirty year period “*every creature which is under heaven*” heard the Word (Col. 1:23). We still have the great obligation of taking the Word of God to a lost and dying world. God still has preaching as His plan for saving those who will believe (1 Cor. 1:18-21). When you investigate a faithful congregation of the churches of Christ, you will find a people who are dedicated to taking the Word to the world.

2. That which is to be spoken is “the truth” ... “the Gospel of Christ.” It is the truth that will set men free (John 8:31-32). In that context it is obvious that “the truth” is the Word of God. Paul called it “...*the word of the truth of the gospel*” in Colossians 1:5. It is God’s power to save mankind, for it reveals God’s righteousness -- God’s right ways (Rom. 1:16-17). We are instructed in God’s righteousness through the verbally inspired Word given by God’s marvelous grace (II Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 2:11-12). It must be spoken, preached, and taught to every nation (Matt. 28:18-20). The

unbelieving Philippian jailer asked what he must do and was told “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*” (Acts 16:31). But the Bible does not stop there. The very next two verses state, “*And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized; he and all his straightway.*” The Word of God must be spoken! Churches of Christ believe that the Word must be sowed as seed in this world (Luke 8:11; cf. Matt. 15:13).

3. Love is the motivation. We must love God, Jesus, the Word, the church of Christ, and the souls of all men everywhere. Too many people have a wrong idea about real Bible love. As one has put it, “They seem to think love is a feeling they feel when they begin to feel like they have never felt before.” When people have this idea of love as some kind of feel-good emotion, you often hear them criticize sound preachers and Bible teachers for being “too harsh.” We hear them say things like, “You need more of the spirit of Christ....You talk about hell too much, and this does not show forth the loving spirit that Jesus had.” But friends, real love always will sound out a warning of danger! The Word teaches, “*Open rebuke is better than secret love*” (Prov. 27:5). No, we do not ever want to be mean-spirited, but we must sound out warnings about the danger of folks being lost when they will not abide in Christ’s doctrine (II John 9-11).

God loves us (John 3:16), but He certainly warns of danger (Ezek. 3:17-21; Acts 18:6; Acts 20:26-31). God will not accept our claim that we love others, if we do not warn of eternal separation from Him. Jesus gave STRONG warnings of danger! Someone has suggested that Jesus spoke 13 times more about hell than about heaven. Does this suggest that our Lord was unloving? Read Matthew 13:41-50, 15:7-14, 23:33, Mark 9:43-44. Did Jesus express a wrong spirit here? To those who were blinded by the world’s riches, Jesus taught about Lazarus and the rich man. Strong warning! YES! Wrong spirit? NO! The God of love has placed into our hands His revealed mind, the Holy Bible. In the Bible we read such passages as 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation 20:15, 21:8. These things are not pleasant, but people need to face the facts! There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun!

The Lord’s church is resolved to keep preaching the Truth on these matters by speaking the truth in love. We will do it “*in season and out of season...reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (2 Tim. 4:2). We fully realize that some won’t like it, but we must do it anyway! Love sounds out a warning of danger as well as enjoying the promises of God (2 Cor. 5:10-11).

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 9/10/23
Bible Class: 38
A.M. Worship: 80
Wed. B. C.: 40

Family News and Notes

Paula Perrin has been transferred to Duke for further treatment. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is undergoing cancer therapy. **Gerry King, Margaret Langston’s** sister, passed away last week. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **Kim Perkins’** father is doing a little better. **John Williams** is recovering well from his knee surgery, but is having trouble with inflammation in his neck. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo and she had a procedure done last week. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. **Barry and Melany Hatcher** are in Indonesia working with the Bible School in Manado, Sulawesi. 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

Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23
Mat 8-10	Mat 11-12	Mat 13-15	Mat 16-18	Mat 19-20	Mat 21-22	Mat 23-24
Ps 78	Ps 79	Ps 80	Ps 81	Ps 82	Ps 83	Ps 84

Events

Gospel Meeting: Sheffield Drive C of C. Sept. 24-27. 7:30pm weeknights.
Fall Gospel Meeting - Oct 22-25. Terrance Brownlow-Dindy speaking.
Creation Debate - October 25 at 11:30. On GBN. Will stream in Langston Hall.
Teachers’ Meeting - October 29 after morning worship.

