

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Sibio Farrington
John Patchell

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
Evaporated Milk

Sermon Notes

Matthew 24

October 29, 2023

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
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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 43 Issue 5

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 Church's Plea

As a follow-up to Wednesday night's sermon of the gospel meeting, I wanted to suggest some things for us to think about. Most of the “Christian” world today is characterized by being either “Catholic” or “Protestant.” For many, consequently, it is seemingly impossible for one to profess neither of the two, and yet still be a “Christian.” People have become so accustomed to thinking of Christianity in terms of “Catholicism” and “Protestantism” that it has probably never occurred to them that one can be a Christian without being either. However, God-fearing folk who comprise the churches of Christ have been endeavoring to proclaim a message of distinction from this common denominational sentiment: not only is it possible to be neither Catholic nor Protestant, but there are actually millions of “Christians only” in this nation, and around the world, who belong to no denomination. One can be just a Christian without being a part of any denomination.

Churches of Christ are autonomous congregations of Christians who are striving to restore Christianity as it is revealed in the New Testament. The term “church of Christ” is not used in a denominational sense, but is intended to denote our desire to belong to Christ, to be members of His church, which He promised to build (Matt. 16:18). The New Testament teaches that the church to which all Christians are added belongs to Christ (Acts 2:47). In Ephesians 5:23, Paul writes, “*Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.*” Paul, wrote to the Christians in Rome, “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (Rom. 16:16). It must be understood that this title is not used as a proper name, but is instead a descriptive

expression which shows how the church relates to Christ. It is Christ’s body, Christ’s church; and does not belong to, nor wear any other name (Heb. 12:23).

Most of the religious world binds upon their adherents their own respective Creeds or Statements of Faith. However, the church of Christ has no humanly contrived creed. Church manuals, Disciplines, and all Articles of Faith created by uninspired men are rejected, and the sole standard of authority in religion by which men are to walk is the Word of God (Matt. 4:4). A Bible Class book is not a Creed or Statement of Faith, it is an expedient to Bible study. The Bible is the inspired Word of God (II Peter 1:21), and contains “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3) making men completely “furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:16-17). There is no need to bind anything other doctrine than God’s Word in order to serve God faithfully. The creeds and catechisms of Protestantism and Catholicism are barriers to unity rather than bastions for it.

Members of the church of Christ today worship the Lord in the same manner the church did in the first century. Studying the writings of the Apostles and prophets of the first century (i.e. the Bible), one will discover the nature of pristine Christian worship as employed by sound churches of Christ today. Investigating the Scriptures, one will find that the worship of the church consisted of *singing* (Col. 3:16-17), *prayers* (Acts 2:42), *teaching* (Acts 2:42; 20:7), the *Lord’s Supper* (Acts 20:7), and the *contributions* of individual Christians on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:1-2). Nothing more than this has been Divinely authorized, and thus to innovate and add to any of these is essentially to walk by your own authority and to presumptuously sin (Gal. 1:6-9; Mark 7:6-8). All of these acts must be done without fail on the first day of the week as well. Adding or taking away from worship will lead to spiritual death (Rom. 6:23).

In a divided religious world, our distinctive plea is based upon the religious unity for which Christ prayed in John 17 by submitting to God’s Word. We entreat all people to abandon all of the dark ages of corruption, discarding humanly instituted names, creeds, and practices, and to forsake all obstacles that divide men, and to be members of the Lord’s church.

BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance for Gospel Meeting 10/22-25
B. C.: 48 A.M. Worship: 70 P.M. 40 Mon.: 43 Tue: 50 Wed.: 52

Family News and Notes

Paula Perrin has returned home and recuperating. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is home but still struggling. **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. **Chuck Perkins** is having some health challenges right now. **John Williams** is having trouble with inflammation in his neck. Wade Hedgepeth’s two brothers, **Mark & Dwight**, have some health challenges. **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 6 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

Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4
Jo 15-17	Jo 18-21	Act 1-2	Act 3-4	Act 5-7	Act 8-9	Act 10-11
119:61-	Ps 114	Ps 115	Ps 116	Ps 117	Ps 118	119:1-60

Events

Teachers’ Meeting - Today after morning worship. No lunch, just a quick meeting.
Trunk-or-Treat: This evening at 5pm, Soup and chili afterward.
Holiday Baskets: December 8th to assemble, 9th to deliver. Please start bringing candy, gum, and individual personal items.

