

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ron Austin

Assisting: John Patchell
Cameron Christian

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
Evaporated Milk

Sermon Notes *Be Pleasing To God*

I. Faith _____

II. Faith _____

III. Faith _____

December 3, 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 43 Issue 10

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Grace, Works, & Faith

There is a lot of confusion about how grace, works, and faith fit together in man's salvation. Some believe there is no relationship between the three. Some believe one is above the others, or is more important than the others. The Bible has the answer as to their relationship and what part each plays in man's salvation.

Grace is the unmerited favor of God. It is. Gift that is undeserved, yet is freely given by God to man. Jesus is that gift. He came to the earth to give His life, and shed His blood so man has an opportunity to lay hold of eternal salvation. Paul wrote, *For by grace are ye saved, through, faith, and that not of yourselves, but it is the gift of God that no man may boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). We are saved by the blood of Jesus, and we come to know this by the teaching of the Word of God. The cross allowed Jesus to be the author and finisher of our faith as He was the propitiation for our sins. We do not have the authority, nor ability to pay for our own sins, Jesus had to pay that debt for us, which He willingly did. There is none that can proclaim here or in the hereafter "Look at what I did for my salvation!" We are saved by God's grace.

Some assert that God's grace is unconditional. The Bible paints a very different picture. We are saved by God's grace. No one can boast about their part in salvation, but the condition is that we take hold of, that is reach out to claim the gift of God. If God's grace was unconditional, then we can live our lives as we choose and we will be saved regardless of any sin committed in

life. This would tend toward, and even be universalism. Everyone will be saved no matter what. This is impossible because Jesus stated that, “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21). Jesus indicates that grace is conditional on man’s obedience. [If universalism were true, even atheists would be saved since God’s grace would not be predicated on believing in God or salvation through His grace.] Man, according to the Lord, reaches out to accept God’s grace through works of obedience. Faith without works is dead (James 2:26). The Christian is expected to display faith in God and His salvation through righteous works of obedience. This is for the individual Christian, not just the collective. A Christian cannot go into eternity because the congregation where he worshipped was doing good things and obeying God by teaching sound doctrine and teaching the lost the gospel. There will not be any proxy Christians in heaven! Each child of God must take the words of Jesus seriously, “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me*” (Luke 9:23).

God’s grace saves us. Through faith, we come to a knowledge of that grace and we understand there are expectations. Through faith we also learn that we are created to obey His will for us. He gives us purpose. Solomon wrote, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Paul, immediately after expressing that God saves us by His grace says, “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*” (Ephesians 2:10). John tells me that if I walk in the light that Jesus’ blood will continue to cleanse me (1 John 1:7-9). The presence of Jesus’ blood is God’s grace. Paul tells me that I am to walk in good works because that was what God made me to do. Therefore, when I am doing good works of obedience I am walking in the lights and Jesus’ blood has the power to continually make me free from sin. Even when I am doing good, I cannot boast and say “look at me, I’m doing it all by myself.” It is not the works that affect salvation. The works of obedience are a reaching out in faith to the grace of God that has the power to save.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 11/26/23
B. C.: 38 A.M. Worship: 55 Wed.: 40

Family News and Notes

Margaret Langston is in Village Green for rehab. **Paula Perrin** is recuperating at home. She begins her 2nd round of chemotherapy tomorrow. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, had a setback, her mother is also ill. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John Patchell’s** brother was injured from a fall. **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 for her cancer. **Linda Hernandez** is shut in at home. 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, Sandra Hedgepeth**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9
2 Tim	Titus	Philemon	Heb 1-2	Heb 3-4	Heb 5-6	Heb 7-8
Pr 3	Ps 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Pr 9

Events

Holiday Baskets: This Friday to assemble, Saturday to deliver. Please bring supplies to Langston hall by Wednesday night.
Holiday Party: Saturday the 16th. Noon-3pm @ the Hatcher residence. See Jennifer for details. Address and directions are in the church app.
LBC: Holiday break Dec. 19 - Jan 2. Return January 9th.

