

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Ben Grant
Cameron Christian

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Powdered Milk

Sermon Notes

Beginnings

I. The _____

II. The _____

III. The _____

January 7, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Services are
archived on our
YouTube page!

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 44 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

The Inseparable Nature of Christ, His Church & Salvation

Matthew 19:3-9 records Jesus being engaged by the Pharisees with questions pertaining to divorce and remarriage. Jesus, offered a principle of truth, *“what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder,”* or, let not man “separate.” This principle applies to anything God has joined together. However, this principle is not always honored by men as they continually try to separate what God has enjoined.

James declared that God has joined “faith” and “works” — *“faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”* (James 2:17). Yet, men teach that man is saved by faith alone. In fact, the *Baptist Member Handbook*, states: “Salvation is given by God in grace, apart from human works ... it is received by man through faith.” Though God has joined faith and works, man has sought their separation.

Jesus, in explaining marriage said, “The two are one,” and are to be separated only “for fornication” (Matt. 19:5,9). Despite this fact, man justifies divorce for any cause. Now man is attempting to separate Christ, salvation, and the church, even though God has forever joined them together. It is clear, from Holy Writ, these three are indivisible. One can ascertain this truth: 1) the point at which a person receives salvation, and 2) the point at which one is added to the church.

At what point does a person “receive” the hope of eternal life? The Bible must be learned, studied, and applied properly, or else it becomes useless. That is not to say that the Bible is a useless, only that it is rendered useless to one who does not use it properly.

Studying the revealed facts of salvation (in the New Testament), there are a number of factors, or steps. These factors can be narrowed, however, to that which man is required to do (acts of obedience; cf. Heb 5:8,9) in order to receive the hope of eternal life. We find that man must *hear* the word of God in order to develop faith (Rom. 10:17). It is required of man to *believe* that which has been

revealed in God’s word, particularly that Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 16:16). Faith must be made an active faith by man *repenting* or turning from his past sins (Acts 17:11). One must associate himself with the Christ by *confessing* faith in Jesus as the Son of God before others (Rom. 10:9-10). The Bible further reveals that man must be *baptized* (immersed) in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). After all these things are accomplished, the Bible says that the person who so complies has the hope of eternal life. Not only do we have these facts revealed, but we also have examples of this system being followed in the book of Acts.

In Acts 2:37 the question is asked, “what shall we do?” What shall they do for what? Those present on this occasion were asking, what must be done to “call on the name of the Lord.” Peter quoted Joel saying, “*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (v.21). The question asked is: “What shall we do to call on the name of the Lord to be saved?” This question came from them having *heard* the word of God, and having faith in “Jesus” (v.32). By asking the question, their confession is implied. Peter responded, “*repent and be baptized*” (v.38). Verse 41 records, “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.*” Thus they “called on the name of the Lord” (cf. Acts 22:16, “arise and be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord”). If by calling on the name of the Lord one is saved (v.21), and one calls on His name by being baptized (v.41), then it follows that this is the point at which a person receives the hope of eternal life (cf. Titus 1:2).

The Bible also reveals an institution known as “the church.” The Bible explains the church as being the “*manifold wisdom of God, which He purposed in Christ Jesus*” (Eph. 3:10-11). Christ said that He would build His church on the foundation that He is the Son of God (cf. I Cor. 3:11), which He explains as being synonymous with His Kingdom (cf. Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). He then taught His disciples that the church/kingdom would come with power in their generation [the 1st Century](Mark 9:1). Before ascending to the right hand of the Father, Jesus reminded His apostles of this fact when He said, “*ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come on you*” (Acts 1:8). So when the student of GOD’s word reads in Acts 2 when the power came, the kingdom came, which must logically follow since the power was to accompany the kingdom, and since the church and the kingdom are synonymous terms, the church was established at that time. But, at what point was/is a person added to the church? Acts 2:47 states, “*And the Lord added to the church day by day, those that were saved*” (ASV).

Notice how the Spirit ties all these things together. Since the church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), having Christ as its head, wherein salvation is found (Eph. 5:23), then it must also be concluded that Christ and His church are inseparable. One cannot be saved outside of Christ. Baptism places one in Christ. Jesus adds the baptized believer to His church.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 12/31/23
B.C.: 38 A.M.: Worship: 62 Wed.: 42

Family News and Notes

Margaret Langston is in Carolina Inn. **Barry & Melany Hatcher** leave for the Philippines and Indonesia tomorrow. **Paula Perrin** is continuing her chemotherapy. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad continues to battle his health issues. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **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. Her husband, **Tony**, had a heart attack but is back at homes.

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

Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13
Gen 25-26	Gen 27-29	Gen 30-32	Gen 33-35	Gen 36-37	Gen 38-39	Gen 40-41

Events

LBC: Resume class this Tuesday at 10am.

Silver Linings: Friday, January 19th @ 11am.

