

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Frank Thompson

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Ron Austin
Tyler Christian

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Jacob Clark

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

Mixed Vegetables

Sermon Notes

Bones & Faith

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

January 14, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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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 2

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 Benefit of Preaching About Eternal Destruction

Citizens are reminded by government officials that punishment is the result of breaking the law. In the home, children are reminded that they will be punished if they do not obey their parents. Students are reminded that they will be punished if they break the rules of the school or teacher. We understand that the thought of punishment does, indeed, serve as a deterrent to wrongdoing. If there is a perceived benefit in these areas of life, the same is true for the spiritual kingdom.

Jesus taught about punishment for the ungodly. Jesus said, “*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*” (Matt. 10:28). Jesus spoke those words to His apostles as He was preparing to send them out to preach to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words says that in Matthew 10:28 the word “destroy” [Greek, *apollumi*, as in “destroy both soul and body in hell”] means “the loss of well-being in the case of the unsaved hereafter.” In His masterful “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus twice spoke about being “cast into hell” (Matt. 5:29,30) and once about being “in danger of hell fire” (Matt. 5:22). In another instance He spoke about “the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:29), and also told some Jewish leaders that they “shall receive the greater damnation” (Matt. 23:14).

Inspired first-century preachers warned the lost about punishment for those that do not obey God. After exhorting his Jewish listeners to repent and be converted, the apostle Peter spoke of the Messiah in these terms: “*For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people*” (Acts 3:22,23). To say that one “shall be destroyed” for not hearing the Christ points to punishment.

While preaching in a synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia, the apostle

Paul, spoke about justification through Jesus. He then warned his listeners, *“Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you”* (Acts 13:40,41). Inspired by the Spirit, Paul quoted from Habakkuk 1:5, which deals with the punishment that God would dispense out to the Jews. Paul’s “beware” statement that is recorded in Acts 13:40,41 points to punishment for those that do not believe in the Christ. Paul wrote, *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”* (II Thess. 1:7-9). Frightfully, those that do not obey righteousness will receive “indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish” (Rom. 2:8,9). These Biblical truths remind us that for the disobedient, *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”* (Heb. 10:31). Indeed, the horrible thought of being lost is a strong motivator to right thinking people.

Jesus taught about punishment, but not about punishment **only**. The Master warned both His followers and His enemies about the reality of hell. If we want to imitate our Lord, and if we really love people’s souls like He did, then we, too, will teach both the lost and the saved God’s truth about punishment of the ungodly. However, the horror of future unending punishment was not all that Jesus used to motivate people to live righteously. Hell and its future residents did not dominate every lesson He presented.

In His “Sermon on the Mount,” before Jesus spoke about hell, He told His disciples, *“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven...”* (Matt. 5:12). A “reward in heaven” appeals to right-thinking people! The Bible calls that wonderful reward “life eternal” (Matt. 25:46) and “the crown of life” (James 1:12). It is *“an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”* (I Peter 1:4). Punishment can motivate, but so does a reward.

In addition to using the possibility of future punishment and future reward, the Lord and His faithful preachers also appealed to their listeners to serve the Lord out of love. The “first commandment of all” of the old law was, *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”* (Mark 12:28,30). On the night of His betrayal, Jesus exhorted His apostles, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments”* (John 14:15). He went on to tell them, “continue in my love” (John 15:9). To whom has the Lord promised the crown of life? Answer: *“...he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him”* (James 1:12). The Lord’s love for us should compel us to love Him in return (II Cor. 5:14). There is a benefit for preaching about the punishment of the wicked, but it must be accompanied by preaching on the reward of the righteous and love for the Lord.

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 1/7/24
B.C.: 43

Daily Bible Readers:
A.M.: Worship: 63

Chapters Read:
Wed.: 36

Family News and Notes

Margaret Langston is in Carolina Inn. **Paula Perrin** is continuing her chemotherapy. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad continues to battle his health issues, and her mother will have surgery in a couple of weeks. **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. **Sandra Hedgepeth** and **Geraldine Harrington** have been very ill, in and out of the ER recently.

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, Barry & Melany Hatcher**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20
Gen 42-44	Gen 45-47	Gen 48-50	Ex 1-3	Ex 4-6	Ex 7-9	Ex 10-11

Events

LBC: Resume class this Tuesday at 10am.

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

