

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Sibio Farrington
Ben Grant

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Jacob Clark

Those serving Wednesday

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Navy Beans

Sermon Notes

Make Us A King

I. Excuse of _____

II. Excuse of _____

III. Excuse of _____

April 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 45 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

Are There Christians in Denominations?

By Roger Campbell

This is a question that deserves our attention. It is one that is frequently asked. Young people ask it. Some of those that have been members of the church for a long time also ask it. Those outside of the Lord's church ask it. We are convinced that when such an inquiry comes from a sincere heart that is searching for truth, then it deserves a Bible answer.

Are there Christians in denominations? The correct standard by which we should answer such a question is not our personal feelings, what we have always believed, what we hope is true, or what the majority of people believe on the matter. Like any other question that pertains to spiritual matters, we ought to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Peter 4:11) when answering it.

Fact: **There were no Christians in denominations in the first century.** There were no denominations that existed at that time, so it was impossible for Christians to be members of them. That means, of course, that there is no such thing in the Bible as “a denominational Christian.” Humans may use such terminology, but those that do so need to realize they are not using Bible language when they do.

Fact: **All saved people in the Christian era are in Christ.** The Bible speaks of “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24) and “the salvation which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 2:10). Only those who have obeyed the Gospel by being baptized into the Christ have been set free from sin and enjoy newness of life (Rom. 6:3,4,17,18). Yes, the saved are in the Christ.

Fact: **All saved people are in the kingdom or church of our Lord.** But, wait a minute. Did we not just show that saved people are in the Christ? If that be true, then how can it be that saved people are in the kingdom or church? First of all, the Bible says that after the establishment of the church, “...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). Make no mistake about it, God added saved people to His church, and nothing else. There is not

a person alive that can prove from the Bible that the Lord under any circumstances ever added a saved person to a man-made denomination! Second, the Bible teaches that Jesus “is the savior of the body” (Eph. 5:23). What is the body? Colossians 1:18 identifies it for us: “And he [Jesus, rdc] is the head of *the body, the church*.” Since the body is the same as the church, when the Bible declares that Jesus is the Savior of the body, that is the same as saying that Jesus is the Savior of the church. Thus, saved people are in His church. Third, biblically speaking, to be in the Christ and to be in His kingdom/church are one and the same. We learn this from Colossians 1:13,14. Verse 13 speaks of the saints in Colosse having been translated into the kingdom of the Christ. The next verse speaks of them being in the Christ and enjoying the forgiveness of sins through Jesus’ blood. Where were those Colossian Christians? According to verse 13, they were in the kingdom or church. According to verse 14, they were in the Son of God. Therefore, to be in the church is the same as being in the Christ. No one can be in the Christ without being in the church (and vice versa).

Fact: **If it is possible for a person to be pleasing to God while being a member of any man-made group, i.e., a denomination, then devastating consequences follow:**

1. A denomination would be just as good in God’s sight as the church which Jesus bought with His blood. There is no way that any man-made group can be as precious as the church for which the Master shed His blood! (Acts 20:28)
2. It is acceptable to the Almighty to be a part of something that He has not authorized. Denominations are unauthorized by the God of heaven (Matt. 21:25), and thus “shall be rooted up” (Matt. 15:13). How could it be acceptable in the Lord’s sight to be a part of, endorse, financially support, and work to build up, something that the Lord Himself will eventually root up?
3. It is acceptable to God to be a part of something that is in competition with the Lord’s church. Mark it down. Whether they realize it or not, and whether they intentionally do it or not, denominations are in competition with the Lord’s church. They would love to see every “non-believer” join them, and they would love to have our members join them as well. Those that oppose the Lord’s church are opposing the Lord (Acts 9:4,5).

Is it possible that there are members of the church in denominations? Yes. It is possible that some have truly obeyed the Gospel and been added by the Lord to His church, then at a later time, either through ignorance or weakness, joined a denomination. They were members of Christ’s church before ever becoming members of a denomination. Keep in mind, scriptural baptism makes one a member of God’s church and no other!

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 3/31/24	Daily Bible Readers: 11	Chapters Read: 371
B.C.: 38	A.M.: Worship: 64	Wed.: 35

Family News and Notes

We continue to grieve with **Kim, Tyler, and Cameron Christian** at this time. **Brittany Hunt**, coworker of Julie Carver, is not doing well. **Kylie**, granddaughter of **Dale and Carolyn Wiles**, is going through a divorce because of infidelity. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Paula Perrin** is continuing her chemotherapy. **Brother Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad is scheduled to have a procedure concerning a tumor. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** father is doing a little better. **John Williams** is having trouble with inflammation in his neck. Wade Hedgepeth’s brother, **Dwight**, has 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, several are on deployment. 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

Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13
1 Sa 23-25	1 Sa 26-28	1 Sa 29-31	2 Sa 1-3	2 Sa 4-6	2 Sa 7-9	2 Sa 10-12

Events

Silver Linings: Friday April 19th. Bring your lunch!

Teacher’s Luncheon & Meeting: Sunday, April 28. Please let Byran know if you are coming.

Lectureship @ Sheffield Drive: Saturday, May 4th, 9-3, Rocky Mount, NC.

