

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Ricardo Alvillar
Julius Cook

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Phil Byrd

Those serving Wednesday

Opening Prayer: TBD

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Patrick Floyd

Song Leader: Jon Anderson

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item
Chili Beans

Sermon Notes
Behind Enemy Lines

I. Take Your _____ With You

II. Consult With The _____

III. Refuse To _____

September 22, 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 46 Issue 11

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Unity Of The Body Of Christ

“Unity” is not attained by merely “agreeing to disagree.” Rather, unity means “oneness, a state of being one.” There are millions of people who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ but who are divided into thousands of denominations, with each of these denominations bearing a name that is different from the name worn by every other denomination. Each denomination espouses, teaches, and practices at least some doctrine different from that believed, taught, and practiced by every other denomination.

The root cause of this situation is the rejection of Christ’s authority. One rejects this authority by rejecting the Gospel. This state of confusion has been brought about by a number of things: 1) the view that doctrine is not consequential, 2) most people have a higher regard for the views of human ancestors than they do for the doctrine of Jesus Christ, 3) many people are impressed by popular viewpoints and 4) many seem to regard their own views more highly than they do the Gospel of Christ.

It must be understood first that denominationalism is not pleasing to God! 1) Division is condemned, 2) false doctrine is condemned, 3) false teachers exist and are to be rejected, and 4) unity among believers is to be upheld.

The Bible plainly teaches that the unity of God’s people is necessary and that division is condemned. After identifying the church as being the body (Eph. 1:22,23; cf. Col. 1:18), Paul says, “*There is one body...*” (Eph. 4:4.) Thus, there is only one church which has God’s approval. This one church is a vital element in the eternal purpose of God (Dan. 2:44). The one church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). Therefore, every religious institution that has come into existence as a result of the ideas, plans, and actions of men are in competition with the one true church. No human being possesses the authority to start a church. Jesus said, “*...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*” (Matt. 15:13). The psalmist said, “*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman*

waketh but in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

Paul strongly condemned division when he said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **all speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**; but that ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind** and in **the same judgment**” (I Cor. 1:10). Among the “works of the flesh” listed by Paul are factions, divisions and parties (heresies) (Gal. 5:20). Further Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17,18). Thus it is clear that Paul taught that we should mark and turn away from those who cause division contrary to the Gospel.

The Bible warns against: 1) “false prophets” (Matt. 24:24-26), 2) “grevious wolves” who speak “perverse things” (Acts 20:29,30), 3) “false apostles” (2 Cor. 11:13-15), 4) those who by “slight of men, in craftiness” seek to carry men about by “every wind of doctrine” after the “wiles of error” (Eph. 4:14), 5) those who “pervert the gospel” (Gal. 1:6-9), 6) “false prophets” who bring in “destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2:1), 7) those who teach “the doctrine of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1-5), 8) those who teach “fables” (2 Tim. 4:1-5), 9) “false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves” (Matt. 5:15), 10) “false apostles, deceitful workers” who try to make themselves appear to be “apostles of Christ” but who are really “ministers” of Satan (2 Cor. 11:13-15), 11) those who do not walk by the same rule (the Gospel), thus, who are enemies of the cross of Christ and “whose end is perdition” (Phil. 3:15-19).

John commends those who could “not bear evil men” and who tried “them who call themselves apostles and they are not” (Rev. 2:2). Paul and Jesus both taught that those who believe a lie (false doctrine) will be damned (2 Thess. 2:8-12; Mark 16:15-16). God’s people are to “stand fast in the faith” (1 Cor. 16:13), to “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3), to be “set for the defense of the Gospel” (Phil. 1:16), to be ready always “to give answer” concerning the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15).

Although there are many individual members of the church, the apostle Paul taught there is only ONE body (1 Cor. 12:13). By learning and obeying the truth, one can be certain that he is a member of the church for which Jesus died (Acts 2:41-47). The unity of God’s people is also upheld by the use of various “figures.” In 1 Timothy 3:14-15, the church is referred to as the “house” of God. Thus we see that the church is God’s “family” that is, the church is the body of people who have been “born again” into God’s family (John 3:3-5) and therefore have become “sons of God” (Gal. 3:26,27). Since God has but one family, and since the family is the church, it is clear that God approves of but one church! Unity is not only desirable, but is necessary if those involved are to be pleasing to God.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 9/15/24 Daily Bible Readers: 15 Chapters Read: 465
B.C.: 44 A.M.: Worship: 63 Wed.: 37

Family News and Notes

Amy Sparks brother, **Todd**, passed away. **Jan Keen** will continue her chemotherapy for another 3 months. **Cathy, Julie Carver’s** sister, passed away. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke. **Gladys Wallace, Gloria Emerick’s** mother, is in hospice care in Oregon. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers, also remember her brother **Kris Wain**. Pray for our world leaders at this time and the upcoming election. Pray for all active duty military members and their families. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Sep 22	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28
Hos 1-7	Hos 8-14	Joel	Amos 1-5	Amos 6-9	Obadiah	Jonah

Events

Gospel Meeting: October 20-23 with Brock Shanks.
Cleanup Day: October 5th. 9-noon. Sign up on small table in foyer.

