

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Ben Grant

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Julius Cook

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Jon Anderson

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Pantry Item

Mixed Vegetables

Sermon Notes

Eating The Bread Of Heaven

I. _____ Bread

II. _____ Bread

III. _____ the Bread

November 10, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons 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 47 Issue 6

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

When Evil Resides in the Righteous

A fierce battle is waged daily between right and wrong. Every nation (Prov. 14:34), family (Deut. 4:40), church of Christ (Jude 3), and individual (James 4:7) on this earth is engaged. The battle went poorly in Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Lot. Abraham stood before God, as recorded in Genesis 18, and pleaded with God to spare the cities if he could find ten righteous souls. God said, *“I will not destroy it for ten’s sake”* (Gen. 18:32). Apparently, there were not even ten in the entire valley. Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim were all destroyed (Deut. 29:23).

Throughout the New Testament, Christ and others use Sodom figuratively to represent wickedness. Truly, many valuable lessons are to be learned today about the consequences of letting this world get too great a hold upon the heart as Sodom did Lot’s family. Not only did Lot’s family live in Sodom, Sodom lived in Lot’s family.

When Sodom lived in Lot’s family, respect for parents declined (Gen. 19:14). After the angels told Lot that Sodom was about to be destroyed, Lot went to warn his sons-in-law. It is immediately apparent that they were neither spiritually-minded, nor did they hold righteous Lot in too high a regard! They did not take the elder Lot seriously. They died when the city was destroyed.

When the world lives in one’s heart today, respect for parents declines. Parental advice is perceived as a “joke.” Many heed their parents’ counsel too late and lives are wrecked by folly. God warns against such disrespect for one’s parents. Under Christ’s Law there is a warning for children to honor their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). It is apparent when the world is in one’s family, because the children hold the parents in contempt rather than with respect.

When Sodom lived in Lot’s family, there was a reluctance to flee evil (Gen. 19:15,16). The angels had to lead Lot and his family out of Sodom by the hand (v.16). Do not forget that what they left behind was wanton homosexuality, sadistic behavior, and total wickedness. Despite that, they could not bring themselves to leave.

Today, Christians are told to flee the evil of this world, to flee

fornication (I Cor. 6:18), idolatry (I Cor. 10:14), the love of money (I Tim. 6:10- 11), and youthful lusts (II Tim. 2:2). The Christian must flee worldliness (James 4:4).

Too many are reluctant to distance themselves from activities and associations which are clearly evil! When one leaves the world and gets on the safe ground of salvation, he should never forget what it is he is leaving behind — condemnation (Rom. 8:1), the road to everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46), and the misery and consequences of sin (Gal. 6:7). One is not thinking correctly who keeps the world in his heart, longing for the harmful things he has left behind. One day this world will be destroyed (II Peter 3:10,11). Jesus said, “*No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God* (Luke 9:62).

When Sodom lived in Lot’s family, fear reigned in the place of faith (Gen. 19:17-22). The angel specifically told Lot that he would be safe up in the mountains, but he was afraid! He was so influenced by the sinful society of Sodom that he was conditioned to be afraid. That is the effect the world can have on the backsliding Christian. It offers no solace or peace of mind. The world encourages and breeds fear. This is why “fear mongering” works so well. Contrast that with what God offers. Paul admonishes, “*Be strong in the Lord...*” (Eph. 6:10).

The faithful Christian has no reason to fear any threat of this world (Matt. 10:28). Jesus told His disciples not to let their hearts be troubled (John 14:1). The faithful Christian also has no reason to fear the Judgment (II Thess. 1:7). John wrote the faithful “*May have boldness in the day of Judgment....*” (1 John 4:17,18).

When Sodom lived in Lot’s family, a deadly yearning for the earthly was stronger than the will to obey God (Gen. 19:26). This powerful lesson was learned by Lot’s wife in a most graphic way. God told Lot’s family not to look back at the wicked city, but Lot’s wife was too enamored with it. Her glance backward sealed her doom. It was the pursuit of worldliness that got them in trouble in the first place (cf. II Cor. 5:7). And through the eye of lust, Lot’s wife wanted just one more look. It was one look too many.

With grim recall, Jesus simply says, “*remember Lot’s wife*” (Luke 17:32). Likewise, today, when true worship loses its excitement and appeal, remember Lot’s wife. When sinful activity seems too good to be true, remember Lot’s wife. When the lure of the world becomes a temptation to quit the church, remember Lot’s wife. When envy strikes because of a neighbor who has it all but the Lord, remember Lot’s wife. If and when one’s desire for the things of this earth are stronger than one’s will to obey God, be careful (cf. I John 2:15-17).

It was not a sin for Lot and his family to live in Sodom. The sin was Sodom was in them.

Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:15, “*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*”

- BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/3
Chapters Read: 275

B.C.: 38
Worship: 48

Daily Bible Readers: 9
Wednesday: 30

Family News and Notes

Please pray for all those affected by Hurricanes Helene & Milton. **Gwen Jennen** has been ill for an extended period of time. **Jan Keen** continues her chemotherapy. We have been encouraged by her attendance at worship. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke and hurricane damage to her home. **Gladys Wallace, Gloria Emerick’s** mother, is in hospice care in Oregon. Gloria is in Oregon at this time caring for her mother. **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 - it’s Tuesday!. 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

Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16
John 12-13	John 14-16	John 17-19	John 20-21	Acts 1-3	Acts 4-6	Acts 7-8

Events

Silver Linings: Friday November, 15 @ 11am. Lunch will be provided!

Prayer Service: Wednesday November, 27. Men, let Byran know if you will be present.

Holiday Baskets: December 13 & 14. See Chad for details.

