

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Jon Anderson

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Dustin Pool

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Jon Anderson

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Pantry Item
Soup

Sermon Notes

Words of Truth & Soberness

I. A Christian in _____

II. A Christian in _____

III. A Christian by _____

IV. A Christian to the _____

November 24, 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 8

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Restoring New Testament Christianity (cont'd)

Prominent men involved in the restoration plea that had its beginning in Europe but found fertile soil in America were James O’Kelly, Elias Smith, Abner Jones, Barton W. Stone, Thomas and Alexander Campbell and a host of others. Their plea was based on the irrefutable principle of sowing and reaping — sowing the seed of the kingdom, the Word of God, into hearts as was done in the first century. What the seed produced then, it would produce again.

Such a plea captured the attention of thousands upon thousands. Many battles were fought and won against the errors of denominationalism. The Lord’s church was restored, and that period has come to be known as the early days of the Restoration Movement.

Seeds of Error Are Sown

Unfortunately, apostasy was close at hand for the church to endure. Two opposing approaches to ascertaining Biblical authority arose. One said Christians are permitted to do whatever the Bible does not specifically prohibit. The other says that the children of God are to do all “in the name of Christ,” which means by His authority (Col. 3:17). 2 John 9 forbids transgressing the doctrine of Christ and binds abiding in it. This was the contention of faithful brethren.

These two approaches finally produced division over such innovations as the missionary society and the use of instrumental music in worship — neither of which has authority from Scripture. The missionary society was a organization separate from the church that assumed to do the work of the church. Instrumental music was wrong because it added another kind of music in worship rather than that which God had repeatedly authorized.

Since these original divisive intrusions into the otherwise growing restoration efforts of the Lord’s church, there have been more innovations, such as the church becoming involved in politics,

entertainment, secular education, fun and games evangelism, observance of “holy days,” women preachers and leaders, raising funds by avenues other than the free-will offerings as Scripture teaches. Those who launched out upon the sea of digression drifted so far away from the shores of truth that they now proclaim to be nothing but a denomination among denominations. They practice open membership, not even requiring what the Bible teaches is necessary to be considered a child of God. They have adopted all manner of false doctrines and religious practices.

But Truth Rises Again

Even so, the remnant remained and the church began to grow and prosper once again until, numerically, it outnumbered the digressive elements that sprang from the departure of restoration principles.

But history has a way of repeating itself. Today, even as these words are written, some of the same false ideas, practices, innovations, organizations, attitudes and doctrines are dividing the church. The justification is “unity in diversity,” which simply means agreeing to disagree and “do your own thing.” We hear of “new hermeneutics” which is neither new nor hermeneutics. It is nothing but a denial of truth. “Change” is the watch-word regardless of why. Compromise is the fashion. “Go along to get along” replaces conviction. Schools, large metropolitan churches, well known preachers and brotherhood papers are all calling for the relaxation of the plea to stay with the Book. They have learned to practice a pseudo love by tolerating whatever anybody wants so long as they are honest and sincere, regardless of the revealed will of God in Scripture.

The cause of restoration is noble and right, but it suffers from the Lord’s enemies, being allowed again to be retarded, splintered and abandoned. They want to become accepted by the world and have a large number of followers (and the money that comes with those numbers).

The Only Way To Unity

The only way to unity is faithfulness to God and to hold tenaciously to the teaching to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Peter 4:11). There must be Bible authority for what we say, believe, and practice, because the Bible is the sole authority. Unity based on truth is the only true unity. The plea will never be outdated nor irrelevant. It is our sacred duty before God and man to uphold this plea regardless of the cost to ourselves and those around us. In every generation, the New Testament church must have a restoration mentality, seeking to be true to God and His enduring Word as we proclaim “Speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.”

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/17
Chapters Read: 276

B.C.: 33
Worship: 60

Daily Bible Readers: 11
Wednesday: 30

Family News and Notes

Tommy Turnage’s mother, **Kathy Crocker**, is doing better and will not have to have surgery! **Gwen Jennen** is battling several illnesses. **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 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 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30
Acts 27-28	Rom 1-4	Rom 5-8	Rom 9-12	Rom 13-16	1 Cor 1-3	1 Cor 4-7

Events

Prayer Service: This Wednesday at 7pm in Langston Hall. Men, see Byran for your assignments.
Holiday Baskets: December 13 & 14. See Chad for details.
Holiday Party: at the Hatchers’, Saturday, December 14th @ 3:00pm.

