

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Kyle Pool
Ricardo Alvillar

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Cam Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Snack Cakes

Sermon Notes
Pertinent Passages

I. Ephesians

II. Philippians

III. Colossians

IV. 1 Thessalonians

V. 2 Thessalonians

VI. 1 Timothy

VII. 2 Timothy

December 15, 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 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

God's Power To Save

As the apostle Paul neared the end of his third missionary journey, he wrote a letter to the church in Rome. At the beginning of the letter Paul stated: *"I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:14-16).

Notice the "I am's" in this reading:

1. *"I am debtor."* Paul realized he had been saved from sin and that he had an obligation to all men as far as possible to preach to them the Gospel of Christ. This is what Christ wanted him to do (Acts 26:16-18), and he selected him to be His apostle to the Gentiles.

2. *"I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."* He was at this time ready and anxious to go to Rome.

3. *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."* The word "gospel" means "good news" or "glad tidings. It is "the power," not "a power" or "one of the powers," but the *only* power that God uses for man's salvation. Since this was true, Paul was willing to suffer the trials of life, even imprisonment in order that he might go and preach this glorious message for men to be saved. God has made no other provisions for the salvation of the world than through the Gospel, as taught by the word of God. Salvation through the Gospel comes only to those who believe it, and it must be an obedient faith, not "faith only" (James 2:24). The Gospel went first to the Jews then to the Gentiles. In the Gospel is God's plan of making men righteous, which is by faith, and it is revealed to produce faith. Young men today are especially urged to know and to teach (preach) this divinely given Gospel message to the whole world. No one should ever be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, yet some people are ashamed of the Gospel; but not so for Paul. This statement is the theme of the letter. Paul was

not ashamed of the Gospel, *“For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”* It is the power approved by God for the salvation of all! So we must emphasize that the power by which God saves men is the Gospel, the message of God’s redeeming love for all mankind.

Most people in the religious world, who claim to believe in God and His word, do not teach and believe that the Gospel is God’s power for saving men. Most religious leaders teach that in *conviction* and *conversion*, there must first be a direct work of the Holy Spirit on the heart of the sinner. Their prayers are for God to “send the converting power down and save these sinners now.” Not that the hearers would believe the gospel message. Those championing truth have debated and taught people that the Gospel -- the inspired word of God -- is God’s power for salvation; that God has no other power to save.

In the Bible we do not read of a single inspired man telling his auditors that they must have a direct work of the Spirit to enable them to obey the Lord and be saved. The Scriptures clearly teach that the Holy Spirit always operates upon man’s heart through the word and only through the word. The Bible does not teach a direct, mysterious, operation of the Spirit for salvation in addition to and distinct from God’s word. The Holy Spirit inspired men to give to us the Scriptures: *“...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Peter 1:21).

A misconception of the Holy Spirit and His work leads to all kinds of religious errors. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person of the God-head. He is one with the Father and the Son (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20). There’s one God who consists of three distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; John 1:1-3,14).

Christ, before He left this earth to return to the Father, promised the power, or influence, of the Holy Spirit to the apostles to guide them into all truth (John 16:13; Luke 24:49). The baptism of the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). They, guided by the Spirit, preached to the people, and the Bible says, *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart”* (Acts 2:37). Thus, by the words of the Spirit given by Peter and the other apostles, the people were made believers and were told what to do to be saved.

Later, the Holy Spirit inspired and guided men to give God’s complete and perfect will. Paul wrote: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible, therefore, is the perfect and complete will of God.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/8	B.C.: 32	Daily Bible Readers: 8
Chapters Read: 266	Worship: 62	Wednesday: 29

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen received some disappointing health news but continues her chemotherapy. Let’s give her some encouragement. **Carlos Boles’** mother, **Mamie**, and sister, **Clevise**, have been hospitalized for separate medical emergencies in Tuscaloosa, AL. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke and hurricane damage to her home. **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**. Many of our number will traveling for the holidays. 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

Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21
Titus	Philemon	Heb 1-7	Heb 8-13	James	1 Peter	2 Peter

Events

Ladies’ Bible Class: Will break for the holidays December 24 until January 7th. Cookie has a card for Brent Pollard for everyone to sign today.

New Years’ Singing: Tuesday, Dec. 31st. 7pm till in Langston Hall. Bring finger foods and drinks.

