

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
Pinto Beans

Sermon Notes
The "B's" of the Bible

I. Christians _____

II. Jesus is _____

III. For A _____ *Life*

December 29, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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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 12

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

The Spirit's Useful Tool

The examples of conversion in the Book of Acts show clearly how the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner in conversion. On the day of Pentecost, the people heard, believed and obeyed the Spirit's message given by Peter (Acts 2:36-38). The Ethiopian officer heard and believed the Gospel teaching about Christ, confessed his faith in the Lord, and was baptized, and then went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:35-39). Lydia and her household and the jailer and his household heard the Gospel and obeyed the Lord and were saved from their sins (Acts 16:1-14, 25-34).

The Word of God is the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). So the Spirit influenced them, but not in a direct manner -- He used His sword. The Holy Spirit is a person. The Gospel, God's inspired word, is the instrument. Note the example: "Mr. Doe cuts down his tree with an axe." Doe cuts down the tree -- the axe cuts down the tree. Doe, a person, exerts his power indirectly through an instrument to cut down the tree. Now apply this illustration to the teaching of the Bible concerning God's power for man's conversion.

The Gospel is the instrument which the Holy Spirit always uses in His work of Christian conversion and leading and directing the child of God to go to heaven. Note these statements teaching this:

1. One must be born of the Spirit (John 3:5). But how? It is through the Word: "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, By the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever*" (I Peter 1:23). "*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth*" (James 1:18). So, where an act is said to have been performed by a person and by a certain instrument, it is clearly understood that the person did the "act" but used the instrument as a "means."

2. A person is made alive by the Spirit through the Word. "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins*" (Eph. 2:1). "*...For thy word hath quickened me*" (Psalm 119:5; 93). "*It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life*" (John 6:63).

3. One is converted by the perfect law of God: "*The law of the*

Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psalm 19:7). “...Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). “...Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14).

4. Faith comes by hearing the word: “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

5. Freedom comes through the truth: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

6. A person is called by the Gospel: “whereunto he called you by my gospel” (II Thess. 2:14).

7. A person is drawn to the Lord by the teaching of the word: “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him... and they shall all be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

8. One is made clean through obedience to the Lord’s teaching: “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (John 15:3).

9. One is sanctified by the Lord in obedience to the word: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

10. One is purified in his soul by obedience to the truth: “seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...” (I Peter 1:22).

11. The word of God is food to the soul that children of God may feed upon and grow thereby: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). “I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2). By obedience to the inspired word of God, Christians have the fruit bearing influence of the Spirit in their lives (Gal. 5:22-23).

12. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells indirectly in the hearts of all the children of God through their obedience to the word, as does Christ and the Father: “That he would grant you, ... to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Eph. 3:16-17). “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). “If we love one another, God dwelleth in us” (I John 4:12). “God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (I John 4:16). “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you” (I Cor. 3:16)? “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own” (I Cor. 6:19)?

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/15
Chapters Read: 266

B.C.: 31
Worship: 52

Daily Bible Readers: 8
Wednesday: 32

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen went to Oregon for the Holidays. She continues her chemotherapy mid-January. **Carlos Boles’** mother, **Mamie**, and sister, **Clevise**, have been hospitalized for separate medical emergencies in Tuscaloosa, AL. **Carlos & Melissa Boles** were in a bad automobile accident, but are doing well except for some bumps and bruises. **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**. There is still a lot of damage from Helene & Milton. Fishers’ of Men class begins next week! There are 12 in the class. 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 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4
Rev 17-18	Rev 19-20	Rev 21-22	Gen 1-2	Gen 3-4	Gen 5-6	Gen 7-8
			Mat 1-2	Mat 3	Mat 4	Mat 5

Events

Ladies’ Bible Class: Will break for the holidays December 24 until January 7th.

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

Mens’ Lunch: This Friday at 11am @ Golden Corral.

