

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Julius Cook

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Cam Christian
Jacob Clark

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Frank Thompson

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Ricardo Alvillar

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Canned Spaghetti

Sermon Notes *The Church At Smyrna*

I. Their _____

II. Their _____

III. Their _____

January 19, 2025

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 48 Issue 3

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 Silence of God

By A. W. Dicus

Volumes have been written and numerous sermons preached about the words and commands of God, but in this age of religious controversy, it seems that little attention has been given to His silence. With slight reflection, we are aware that when God speaks, He speaks with power and authority. By His word, the things that now are, sprang into existence; the planets moved in their respective orbits and even man became a living soul. Natural laws ceased to function as evidenced in the burning bush, the dividing of the waters of the Red Sea, the flowing stream from the smitten rock and the prolongation of the solar day while Joshua finished the battle. Thus the laws of nature apparently began instantaneously when He spake and as suddenly ceased by the same power. By such came life and by such life ends. With equal sudden rapidity, we are assured that the dead will appear, the transformation will take place and eternity will be ushered in for it will be in the twinkling of an eye at the sound of the voice of God. However, it is not the commands of God that men fear but God himself and His divine presence.

When God speaks, man stands in awe. Israel, while waiting God's commands, pleaded that such be given indirectly through Moses for they feared His presence (Exodus 20:19). It was then that Moses rebuked the people and said, *“Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.”* It is not during the moments of God's presence that men are rebellious, contentious, neglectful, unthankful and fearless, but during the lapse of time between His appearances.

It is not during the uttering of God's holy and divine commands that man questions, rejects or disobeys, but during the intervals of silence while the merciful God is longsuffering, waiting for man to repent. Here the psalmist visualizes God as the Great Judge. *“He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made*

a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself” (Psalm 50:4-6). Then in verses 1, 2 and 3: “The mighty God even the Lord hath spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof, out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence, a fire shall devour before him and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him.” Thus the prophet summons the court, presents the judge, produces the witnesses, cites those who are to answer and, having seated the judge upon the throne, he gives forth the charge. Then will be broken the deep silence that now penetrates the heart of every submissive child and disturbs the mind of every rebellious objector. Where will be the place? “Out of Zion.” Who are to be cited? “Those that have a covenant with Him,” which dates from the offering of Abel. What will be the charge? “I am God,” the only object or being of worship; “I am thy God,” which demands complete subjection. “I will speak,” which forestalls any argument or anticipated deliberation.

It is during the long periods of silence between the successive appearances of God, that men have always permitted their spark of faith to grow dim, thus permitting their religions to become corrupted and suffering themselves to drift into a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. It is during such periods that men have forgotten God. Man, with the greatest of his ability and theological reasoning, has searched the Bible, striving to understand and to teach the commands of God, but in sorrow he has neglected to reflect upon the periods of God’s silence: and the results of such intervals upon the eternal destiny of the soul.

I. *The Silence of God is an expression of His infinite wisdom and a distinct proof of His divinity.*

God spake and the worlds were formed. Natural laws were postulated, material things sprang into existence and then the voice of God became silent in nature. From that day until the present, the natural laws have remained fixed. Men have denied, rejected, tried to refute and have even claimed to set such laws aside but God remains silent. It is this penetrating silence that alarms the Atheists, the Deists, and the Agnostics, until they demand aloud for an answer from God. They cry for supernatural evidence which, failing to get, they deceive their followers with religious superstitions. Their works are mysteries of deception. They profess to appear as medians and even promise to return after death, but God remains silent. Why should God speak? He spoke as one of authority. Such men of assumed intellect have never disproved this authority. This unbroken silence has forced the ablest of scientists to admit that “matter cannot be created nor destroyed.” “*The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork,*” all of which came by the voice of God (Psalm 19:1).

(Cont’d next week)

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 1/12
14

Chapters Read: 466

B.C.: 31
Worship: 52

Daily Bible Readers:
Wednesday: 24

Family News and Notes

Please pray for all those affected by the fires in Los Angeles. **Jan Keen** will continue her radiation and chemo this week. **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. Kim’s brother, **Kris Wain**, had a successful procedure last week. There is still a lot of damage from Helene & Milton from Florida up through West Virginia. Fishers’ of Men class continues today! 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

Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25
Gen 37-38	Gen 39-40	Gen 41-42	Gen 43-44	Gen 45-46	Gen 47-48	Gen 49-50
Mat 22	Mat 23	Mat 24	Mat 25	Mat 26	Mat 27-28	Mar 1-2

Events

Teachers’ Meeting: Sunday, January 26 after A.M. worship. In Workroom (room #10)
Men’s Lunch: February 7th at Golden Corral @ 11am

