

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Jacob Clark

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Ben Grant
Tyler Christian

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Rob Sparks

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Ricardo Alvillar

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Canned Ravioli

Sermon Notes *The Church At Thyatira*

I. They are _____

II. They are _____

III. They are _____

February 2, 2025

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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28304

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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 5

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 (cont'd)

III. God's silence is indicative of His infinite compassion and divine mercy.

He is exceedingly merciful, slow to anger and omniscient. Although nothing escapes the divine eye, yet He remains silent and continues to bestow blessings upon men. *“The ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord and He pondereth on all his goings”* (Prov. 5:21). He endures the provocation of the ungodly and defers from day to day, from year to year, the deserved punishment. God is longsuffering to usward and in silence He manifests His divine mercy, while He waits for repentance. This present life is a season of prohibition, a period for reforming. It is not a silence in which God will suffer His way to be altered but a silence of waiting for men to conform to His way. Why do men fear the judgment? Because they know that then the days of probation will be ended. Why do men not fear the calm of His silence before the judgment? This question is answered in Ecclesiastes 8:11, which reads, *“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”*

How long God will continue this compassionate silence is uncertain both to men and angels but it will terminate with incomprehensible speed. What shall He then say to those who have taken His covenant out of God's mouth, who have discarded the New Testament because they hated instruction, and who have changed the Word of God into deception? Ezekiel says in the thirteenth chapter, *“They have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain*

vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken? ... So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD” (vs.6-7,14).

It is this silence that is indicative of His divine mercy, for when He speaks, as the psalmist says, “He will reprove the wicked and tear into pieces those that forget God and there will be none to deliver.” Is it any wonder that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth? When humble servants of the Most High God and disciples of His obedient Son realize that heartfelt religion is not New Testament religion and that a Christian is a follower of Christ and not an advisor nor even a counselor, then men will pray for God to prolong his merciful silence until they repent rather than pray for some visible manifestation of His divine presence.

It is God’s desire to remain silent. Why should we wish it otherwise. If men will not heed that which He has spoken, what assurance does God have that he will heed a direct revelation should one be given? Did not the rich man plead that a direct messenger be sent to his erring brothers? Do we not remember the heavenly answer: “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31).

The decision has been made and the destiny sealed. Alterations are not to be accepted. Thus it was with Pilate when he said, “What I have written, I have written.” Neither are alterations to be expected in the divine decisions. What God has written, he has written. What faith or hope could a believer have, if such were subject to alteration? With what certainty could one plan for eternity if it were not for the fact that “with Him there is no variableness nor shadow of turning?”

There is no need for another revelation. It is then the silence of God that is indicative of His infinite compassion and divine mercy which inspires our faith and hope in the eternal promises.

(Cont’d next week)

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 1/26 B.C.: 33 Daily Bible Readers:
10 Chapters Read: 366 Worship: 58 Wednesday: 20

Family News and Notes

Please pray for all those families mourning the loss of loved ones in the crash in Washington D.C. **Jan Keen** is continuing her cancer treatments. **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. There is still a lot of damage from Helene & Milton from Florida up through West Virginia. Pray for all those affected. Fishers’ of Men class continues today! 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

Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8
Ex 15-16	Ex 17-18	Ex 19-20	Ex 21-22	Ex 23-24	Ex 25-26	Ex 27-28
Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16

Events

Men’s Lunch: February 7th at Golden Corral @ 11am
Silver Linings: February 21 @ 11am

