

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Tyler Christian

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Ben Grant
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item
Rice

Sermon Notes

I Know Thy Works

1. Points of Commendation

II. Points of Condemnation

March 16, 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 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

Singing in the Worship

Last week in our Fishers' of Men class (please come to the dinner and graduation Wednesday night!) we discussed music in the worship on the first day of the week. It was an excellent discussion so I thought I might pen a few words as a follow-up to that discussion. The church of our Lord, for many years, has been known for her a cappella singing. The blending of human voices, without the use of mechanical instruments of music, is a most pleasant and rewarding experience. God desires and demands sincere, heart-felt worship (John 4:23,24). The musical talent of the worshiper is not the crucial element of our singing of praises to God, rather it is the singing of songs that teach scriptural truths.

What *kinds* of songs are authorized in the Scriptures? The Scriptures limit us to the use of three kinds of songs in our worship. These songs consist of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (cf. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). The use of any other kind of song is without Scriptural authority. Since we are to have Scriptural authority for all we do, including the singing of songs in worship, it follows that the use of any other kind of song in worship is sinful (Col. 3:17).

What about the lyrics of the songs we sing? They, too, must convey doctrinally accurate Scriptural concepts. There is such a thing as poetic license which, by its nature, prohibits placing a literal interpretation on the words. However, words are signs of our thoughts. and our thinking must be in harmony with the teaching of the Scriptures. A couple of songs will illustrate the point being made.

A popular song many congregations sing is entitled, “***Just A Little Talk With Jesus.***” The melody and harmonies are fine; it's the lyrics that are unscriptural. Jesus never accepts an alien sinner unless he obeys the Gospel (Rom. 1:16). In this song, Gospel obedience is simply ignored. Furthermore, this song encourages the *sinner* to pray to *Jesus*. The Scriptures nowhere tell the sinner to pray for any thing. Prayer is a privilege of God's children (I Peter 3:12). And, “just a little talk with Jesus” never made any thing right. The only way an alien sinner can be made right with Jesus is for him

to obey Jesus (Heb. 5:8,9). In the case of an erring Christian, he must repent of his sin and pray for God’s forgiveness (Acts 8:20-24). Prayers ought not even be addressed to Jesus (Matt. 6:9) Christians pray to the Father by the authority of Jesus.

Another song that is quite popular is “***Jesus Is Coming Soon.***” This song is slanted towards the premillennial theory. There are at least two objections to singing this song: First, we do not know when Jesus is coming (Matt. 24:36). To say, “Jesus is coming soon,” implies we know something we cannot know. True, the word “soon” may be used in a relative sense, but ten, one hundred, or a thousand years cannot hardly be thought of as being “soon.” Husbands, if, as you leave your residence, and your wife should ask, “Honey, when will you be back?,” and you reply, “soon.” Do you think she would expect you back next year? Hardly! Why, then, can we not see this when it comes to singing this song? Second, this song mentions so-called “signs” of our Lord’s return. Brethren and friends, there are no signs of our Lord’s approaching return. The signs mentioned in Matthew 24 were given for the benefit of those first century Christians relative to the coming destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in A.D. 70. The Scriptures teach that the return of Christ on the Day of Judgment will be like a thief’s coming in the night (II Peter 3:10). How does a thief come? Does he give warning signs of his coming? No, he does not! And neither should we sing about such “signs” of our Lord’s return when none have been given.

What about the singing of *patriotic songs* in our worship? Remember, if the song is not a psalm, hymn or spiritual song, we have no Scriptural authority for singing such a song. Into which category could you place “America the Beautiful?” I love my country and have always enjoyed singing this song, but my adoration for my country does not justify using it in worship services.

What should be our attitude towards these matters? Surely, it’s not enough to say, “Well, we’ve been singing these songs for years.” The fact we’ve done any thing for years does not prove the doing of that thing to be right. A man may have stolen chickens all his life, but if he keeps on stealing chickens, he’s still a thief and must stop if he wants to go to heaven! I once was told when I pointed out these matters to some brethren, “If you can’t sing these songs, just don’t sing, but we’re going to continue singing them, as we’ve always done.” Such an attitude displays an ignorance of God’s word and a blatant disregard for the necessity of having Scriptural authority for all we do, which includes our worship in song.

It does make a difference what we sing. The songs we sing will either be pleasing or displeasing to God. The only way to please God is to remain faithful to his Word. There are numerous songs in most of our books which, in their lyrics, are either in part or wholly unscriptural. Let’s remain vigilant, less we sing a lie. Think about it.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 3/9	B.C.: 29	Daily Bible Readers: 12
Chapters Read: 295	Worship: 60	Wednesday: 20

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen is continuing her cancer treatments. **Debbie Smith** is having some health problems. **John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **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.

Fishers’ of Men class has its final class today! Class went very well and there are several Bible studies being conducted as a result. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez, and the Davis family.**

Bible Reading Plan

Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23
Nu 32-33	Nu 34-36	Deut 1	Deut 2-3	Deut 4-5	Deut 6-7	Deut 8-9
John 12	John 13	John 14	John 15	John 16	John 17	John 18

Events

FOM Dinner & Graduation: March 19 @ 6pm. Please sign up if attending. Last class is today!!

Silver Linings: Friday March 21 @ 11am. Bring your lunch!

VBS: August 9th - go ahead & put it on your calendar!

