

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Julius Cook III

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Cam Christian
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item
Canned Chicken

Sermon Notes *An Unruly Evil*

I. The Sin of _____

II. The Sin of _____

III. The Sin of _____

March 23, 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 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

Water Baptism is Essential

New Testament Christians have seen baptism as a defining act of the Christian faith since the beginning of the church (Acts 2:38, 47). Over the course of the past two millennia, some have come to understand baptism differently than how it was explained and practiced during the days of the Apostles. If baptism was deemed important to the Apostles and the first century Christians, why is it considered non-essential now?

The essence of baptism is an act of obedience on the part of the believer. After a person realizes the need to be reconciled to God - and that this can only be accomplished through the finished work of Christ on the cross - one repents of sin and submits to baptism. The Greek term *baptidzo* (transliterated as baptize) means to immerse, dip, or plunge. In ancient literature this word was used to describe the total immersion of cloth during the dyeing process or to sunken ships. There is never any indication in the earliest Christian literature that baptism was viewed as anything other than an immersion of the individual in water.

Baptism is a symbol of a believer's spiritual union with Christ. The apostle Paul indicates as such when he wrote that believers are buried with Christ (Romans 6:3-4) and clothed with Christ (Gal. 3:27). This marks a person's entry into the kingdom, or the church (1 Cor. 12:13).

While some, yea perhaps most, religious groups downplay the significance of baptism, it should be noted that it is a direct command of Jesus Himself that believers are to baptize other believers (Matt. 28:19). Acts is replete with examples of

believers being immersed for the remission of their sins as a result of the proclamation of the gospel call. In a passage that makes explicit reference to the practice, Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one can enter the kingdom of God except they are born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5).

Christian’s often hear the objection that baptism cannot save a person because salvation is by “grace alone” (Eph. 2:8-9). Man is saved by grace, just not grace alone. While good works alone do not save a person, grace does not negate responsibility on the part of the believer. Ephesians 2:8 state that one is saved by grace AND faith. Grace is God’s part, faith is man’s part. The Apostle Peter told the crowd on the Day of Pentecost to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). He then wrote in 1 Peter 3:21, “baptism doth now save you.” Paul also says that the Christian is saved through the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5), a passage the early church understood to teach the necessity of baptism. Ultimately, baptism is not the *how* of salvation, but the *when* and *where* a person enters into the state of salvation.

A common objection against the necessity of baptism for salvation is the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43). A popular response is to say that the thief might have been baptized. He might have had John’s baptism. The text is silent concerning his baptism status. Neither side can make an argument there. The thief lived under the Old Law, and was face-to-face with the Savior (i.e. God Himself) and as such God can offer salvation to anyone He chooses. Jesus forgave sins on a number of occasions as He walked the earth (e.g. Mark 2:10; Luke 7:48). Just as this is not how Jesus forgives sins today, this is also not how He saves people today.

Baptism is a one-time act. When a believer is taught the pure gospel of Christ (Acts 8:26-39), and baptism is administered, that person is forever a child of God and never needs baptism again. Will that child need restoration? Yes! Just not baptism. Repentance and confession of sin is all that is necessary.

There was a group of people that needed to be baptized even though they had been baptized though. This group had erroneously, though sincerely, taught John’s baptism. When they learned the truth, they were baptized for the remission of their sins which they still had and were then added to the Lord’s church (Acts 19:1-5).

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 3/16 B.C.: 28 Daily Bible Readers: 10
Chapters Read: 283 Worship: 57 Wednesday: 39

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen is continuing her cancer treatments. **Sandra Hedgepeth** and **Carolyn Grant** (Ben’s mother) are in Cape Fear after breaking their ankles. **Carlos Boles** was in a motorcycle accident and is in Cape Fear. **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 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
Deut 10-11	Deut 12-13	Deut 14-15	Deut 16-17	Deut 18-19	Deut 20-21	Deut 22-23
John 19	John 20	John 21	Acts 1	Acts 2	Acts 3	Acts 4

Events

Men’s Lunch: Friday, April 4th at 11am @ Golden Corral

Building Workday: Saturday, April 26. 9-noon.

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

