

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Phil Byrd
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Julius Cook

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

Mac & Cheese

Sermon Notes
Living Faithfully

I. It Is Our _____

II. It Is Our _____

III. It Is Our _____

IV. It Is For His _____

April 27, 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 49 Issue 4

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

“By Grace Are Ye Saved”

Much has been written concerning this wonderful truth of God's word found in Ephesians 2:8. Once I was approached by someone who believed in the Perseverance of the Saints (the “once saved, always saved” doctrine of Calvinism), and said, “what are you going to do about that verse?” Well, I believe it because it is an inspired passage given by the Holy Spirit Himself to the Apostle Paul! There is also this false doctrine that when one believes in God, a prayer is all that is necessary to facilitate salvation. When one thinks about that logically, if it is necessary to pray for salvation, then the sinner STILL MUST DO SOMETHING FOR SALVATION! This false doctrine is touted everywhere. I would be indebted greatly to the person who could point me in the proper direction as to where that passage of scripture is found in the Word of God where a prayer saves.

If an example can be used, let us observe what Saul of Tarsus did. When Saul was on the road to Damascus, he evidently saw around noon, “a great light” which “shone from heaven” (Acts 22:6). In the state of awe with which an event such as that tends to be accompanied, and being dumbfounded by the fact that his prior convictions were completely misguided, Saul could only now do what the Lord would have him to do (Acts 9:6). He was told to go to Damascus and to wait for someone who would tell him what to do to be saved. This, Saul did.

Before Saul met Ananias, the one who would tell him what to do and hence before Saul was told by Ananias to have his sins washed away by God in water baptism (Acts 22:16), the Lord told Ananias that Saul, who had already confessed Jesus as “Lord”, was praying (Acts 9:11). The Lord Jesus Himself said that Saul was praying, and yet was *still waiting to be pardoned from sin!* It was not until he met Ananias, was loosed from the scales which obscured his sight, was told his duty in proclaiming that message with which the majority of people in this life have yet to be enlightened, and finally to *be baptized* that his sins were at that point washed away by the blood of Jesus (Acts 22:10-16). If prayer saved Saul, neither Saul, Ananias, nor

the Lord knew it, for none of them would have made Saul wait for Ananias, nor would they have proclaimed that his sins were washed away only after baptism! Indeed, Saul was saved, not by prayer, but by his surrender to God in obeying the gospel of His Dear Son.

Upon hearing the Biblical doctrine that at baptism is when one's sins are washed away, that individual with whom I was speaking then rehearsed that same old argument based upon the much-abused statement from Paul countless denomination's leaders have abused and misapplied. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast"* (Eph. 2:8-9). The argument usually avowed regarding this passage (that is used to refute the Bible's clear teaching on the necessity of baptism for salvation, cf. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21), typically flows in this way: 1) We're saved by grace; not by works. 2) Baptism is a work. 3) Therefore, baptism is not necessary for salvation. Let's see if this rationale has any merit.

Parents often give gifts to their children on their birthday. The gift is given freely out of love and favor from parents to child. It is not given out of necessity because the child earned or merited the gift. It is not based upon the child's works, but by the grace (favor) of the parent that the child is given the gift. But the child is not necessarily without conditions of action in the reception of the free gift either. The child must still take the package in which the gift is contained, untie the bow which binds the wrapping, unwrap the box, open it, and take the gift out in order to truly enjoy the benefits of the freely, graciously-given gift. Yet, did the child, in thus doing, somehow nullify the fact that the parent gave the gift out of love and grace and not merit? No! Again, NO! The gift was given by grace, not by works, even though some works still contributed to the reception of the gift (after all, you can't have a gift without first *receiving* it!).

The argument is made that belief and prayer saves the sinner! I have yet to find any logic in the assertion that baptism cannot save because *no works whatsoever* save us, and yet in virtually the very same breath claim that *believing and praying* (both *works* done by the mind and mouth of man) *are* activities that *can and do* save! Inconsistency is the progeny of all lies! If baptism is precluded from salvation on the basis of Ephesians 2:8-10, then so is prayer! Anyone who refuses to see that, does not want to see it.

In Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 4:4-5, Paul specifies that he is writing about works that give grounds *for boasting* (v.9). Paul is talking about the *basis* of our salvation or the reason for which we are saved; not about the *conditions* or the specific requirements pertaining thereto. In other words, God is the one who pardons, not man. Salvation is not of ourselves. The grace of God is the *basis* of our salvation. We readily agree that we are not saved by works of merit or human righteousness. For then, our salvation would not be of God, but rather ourselves and our own striving.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 4/20
Chapters Read: 282

B.C.: 24
Worship: 52

Daily Bible Readers: 8
Wednesday: 28

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen is continuing her cancer treatments. **Sandra Hedgepeth** is now in Village Green Rehab. She will be there for several more weeks. **Carolyn Grant** (Ben's mother) is now back at home doing her rehab. **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 and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Linda Jenkins'** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins'** parents need prayers. **Cecilia Ellerbe, Namika's** mother, had successful surgery and is at home recuperating. **Drew Perrin** will have a procedure this week at Womack.

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

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
Ruth 1-2	Ruth 3-4	1 Sam 1-2	1 Sam 3-4	1 Sam 5-6	1 Sam 7-8	1 Sam 9-10
Rom 5	Rom 6	Rom 7	Rom 8	Rom 9	Rom 10	Rom 11

Events

Teachers' & VBS Meeting: this morning after worship in teacher workroom
Game Time: Saturday, May 10 @ 2pm. Langston Hall. Bring board games & snacks.
Congregation Fellowship: Memorial Day, May 26th at Namika Harley residence.
VBS: August 9th - go ahead & put it on your calendar!

