

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Kyle Pool

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Julius Cook
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item

Baked Beans

Sermon Notes *God's Providence*

I. *The _____ of Providence*

II. *The _____ of Providence*

III. *The _____ of Providence*

September 7, 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 50 Issue 9

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Christians In Denominations

There was a robust discussion in the adult Bible Class Wednesday night. I wanted to take the time to further explain the Biblical position on if there are Christians in the denominations. I am passionate about this topic because of the devastating eternal consequences to those who believe in error.

So, are there Christians in denominations? The correct standard by which we should answer such a question is not our personal feelings, what we have always believed, what we hope is true, or what the majority of people believe on the matter. Like any other question that pertains to spiritual matters, we ought to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Peter 4:11) when answering it.

Fact: **There were no Christians in denominations in the first century.** There were no denominations that existed at that time, so it was impossible for Christians to be members of them. There is no such thing in the Bible as “a denominational Christian.” Humans may use such terminology, but those that do so need to realize they are not using Bible language, or authority, when they do.

Fact: **All saved people in the Christian era are in Christ.** The Bible speaks of “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24) and “the salvation which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 2:10). Only those who have obeyed the Gospel by being baptized into the Christ have been set free from sin and enjoy newness of life (Rom. 6:3,4,17,18). Yes, the saved are in the Christ.

Fact: **All saved people are in the kingdom or church of our Lord.** But, wait a minute. Did we not just show that saved people are in the Christ? If that be true, then how can it be that saved people are in the kingdom or church? First of all, the Bible says that after the establishment of the church, “...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). Make no mistake about it, God added saved people to His church, and nothing else. There is not a person alive that can prove from the Bible that the Lord under any circumstances ever added a saved person to a man-made denomination!

The Bible teaches that Jesus “is the savior of the body” (Eph. 5:23). Colossians 1:18 identifies the body: “And he [Jesus, rdc] is the head of *the body, the church*.” Since the body is the same as the church, when the Bible declares that Jesus is the Savior of the body, that is the same as saying that Jesus is the Savior of the church. Thus, saved people are in His church.

To be in Christ and to be in His kingdom/church are one and the same. Paul communicated to the church at Colosse, Colossians 1:13,14, they had been translated into the kingdom of the Christ, and as a result they were enjoying the forgiveness of sins through Jesus’ blood. Where were those Colossian Christians? According to verse 13, they were in the kingdom or church. According to verse 14, they were in the Son of God. Therefore, to be in the church is the same as being in the Christ. No one can be in the Christ without being in the church (and vice versa).

Fact: **In the New Testament, the word “Christian” refers to one that is a member of the Lord’s church.** That word “Christian,” which is used a total of three times in the New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16), literally means “a follower of Christ” [Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, page 672, word no. 5546]. When the word “Christian” appears in the Bible, the immediate and general contexts clearly show that those identified as “Christians” were members of the body of the Christ.

Fact: **If it is possible for a person to be pleasing to God while being a member of any man-made group, i.e., a denomination, then devastating consequences follow:**

1. A denomination would be just as good in God’s sight as the church which Jesus bought with His blood. There is no way that any man-made group can be as precious as the church for which the Master shed His blood! (Acts 20:28)
2. It is acceptable to the Almighty to be a part of something that He has not authorized. Denominations are unauthorized by the God of heaven (Matt. 21:25), and thus “shall be rooted up” (Matt. 15:13). How could it be acceptable in the Lord’s sight to be a part of, endorse, financially support, and work to build up, something that the Lord Himself will eventually root up?
3. It is acceptable to God to be a part of something that is in competition with the Lord’s church. Whether they realize it or not, and whether they intentionally do it or not, denominations are in competition with the Lord’s church. They would love to see every “non-believer” join them, and they would love to have our members join them as well. Those that oppose the Lord’s church are, in actuality, opposing the Lord (Acts 9:4,5).

One does not become a member of Jesus’ church by being baptized into a denominational body, then at some later point praying into the Lord’s church.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 8/31	B.C.: 28	Daily Bible Readers: 14
Chapters Read: 330	Worship: 60	Wednesday: 23

Family News and Notes

Chad Futrell’s dad passed away last Thursday evening. Keep his family in prayer. **John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Carole Pearson,** Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Gwen Jennen** is having health problems. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Ally** is in West Virginia with her grandparents to help out. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon,** is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers. Her mom is doing much better though.

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

Bible Reading Plan

Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11	Sep 12	Sep 13
Is 1-2	Is 3-4	Is 5-6	Is 7-8	Is 9-10	Is 11-12	Is 13-14
Ps 67-68	Ps 69	Ps 70-71	Ps 72	Ps 73	Ps 74	Ps 75-76

Events

Silver Linings: September 19. Bring your lunch!
Gospel Meeting @ S. Lumberton: Sun. - Wed. 7pm weeknights. Brock Shanks speaking.

