

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Phil Byrd
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item
Canned Tuna

Sermon Notes
Forgiveness

I. _____ *in Life*

II. *Blood is* _____

III. _____ *Reception*

November 16, 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 51 Issue 7

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

“Called” to Preach?

Personal feelings are not the standard of authority to which we should appeal when answering questions dealing with serving the Lord. The Bible says, “*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Prov. 16:25). Others may be convinced that God calls men simply because that is what they have heard someone else say. Yet, even sincere people can be wrong. What other people have to say about a matter does not determine truth. God’s word, and God’s word alone, is truth (John 17:17). Thus, in answering this question about God’s calling, we need to turn to the Book of books for accurate information.

There are a number of New Testament verses which indicate that the Lord does, indeed, call men. Here is a brief sample of quotations: “*That ye should walk worthy of God, who hath called you...*” (I Thess. 2:12). “*...That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness...*” (I Peter 2:9). “*...The power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us...*” (II Tim. 1:9). More passages could be cited. Yes, God does call men.

Here are some ways the Bible portrays the Lord’s calling. It is “His calling” in that He is the Caller (Eph. 1:18). At the same time, it is “(y)our calling” because we (humans) are the ones that are called (Eph. 4:4). The Bible also calls it a “high calling” (Phil. 3:13), “holy calling” (II Tim. 1:9), and “heavenly calling” (Heb. 3:1). If the Holy One gives us a high, holy, and heavenly calling, then surely we need to count this as a serious matter.

According to the Bible, God “*hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness*” (I Thess. 4:7). In addition, we read that the Lord calls men “*out of darkness into his marvelous light*” (I Peter 2:9). It is further written that He calls us “*unto His kingdom and glory*” (I Thess. 2:12), “*unto His eternal glory*” (I Peter 5:10), “*unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*” (I Cor. 1:9), “*to peace*” (I Cor. 7:15), “*into the grace of Christ*” (Gal. 1:6), and “*unto liberty*” (Gal. 5:13). One that denies the reality and significance of

God’s calling is virtually casting aside multitudes of clear Bible statements. According to these verses, one that disregards the calling of God loses out on the opportunity to be in His glory, kingdom, light, fellowship, peace, grace, and liberty! That brings us to another significant misunderstanding.

Many who hear the expression “calling of God” automatically think of some miraculous or irresistible calling. First, let us note that it is true that God did miraculously call men to serve as prophets and apostles. At other times, as in the case of Abraham (Heb. 11:8), God called men to carry out certain tasks, that is, He gave them direct instructions. The days of such miraculous calling, however, passed away with the completion of God’s revelation to mankind in the first century (I Cor. 13:8-10). It follows that there is no such thing as God directly speaking to or directly calling man today. That goes for all people, including those who claim that God has secretly “called” them to preach. Plainly, it just does not happen in our day.

Second, when it comes to God calling people unto His glory, light, liberty, etc., He has never done this in an irresistible manner or in a way that sidesteps or overrides man’s freedom of choice. While great masses of religious people believe in some type of “irresistible grace” by which the Holy Spirit miraculously opens a sinner’s heart and calls him/her unto salvation, the Gospel of the Christ teaches no such thing. Do you want to hear God’s truth about this? The truth is, the Holy Spirit and His calling can be resisted. Stephen (an inspired preacher) said so, telling the Jews that eventually killed him, “...*ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye*” (Acts 7:51). All who teach or believe in a miraculous, irresistible calling conveniently ignore this passage. For those that accept what the Bible teaches, “Enough said.”

Hear how the Bible explains the Lord calling men unto His grace, fellowship and kingdom: “*But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (II Thess. 2:14). The Lord called these people unto salvation? “By our gospel.” That is, through the Gospel which the apostle Paul preached, which is the one, true Gospel of God’s Son (Gal. 1:6-10). Jesus also taught that God attracts or draws men unto Him (Jesus) through the teaching of God’s word. People come to the Christ only when the Father teaches them through His word (John 6:44,45). Faith is produced by the word of God (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30,31).

The same gospel that calls people to salvation calls men to be elders, deacons, leaders, teachers, and preachers. There are many roles to fill in the kingdom and the gospel has called YOU to fill a role. What are you doing for Him?

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/9

Chapters Read: 264

B.C.: 28

Worship: 54

Daily Bible Readers: 10

Wednesday: 25

Family News and Notes

Rob Sparks’ mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is in the hospital in Lexington, KY. She had successful surgery last week. **John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Lauri Walter’s** granddaughter, **Chelsea**, lost her husband recently. Chelsea is also eight months pregnant. **Gwen Jennen** retired because of her physical health. **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 them to help out and is doing a fantastic job caring for them. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers.

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

Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22
Eze 17-18	Eze 19-20	Eze 21-22	Eze 23-24	Eze 25-26	Eze 27-28	Eze 29-30
Pr 12	Pr 13	Pr 14	Pr 15	Pr 16	Pro 17	Pr 18

Events

Prayer Service: November 26, all in the fellowship hall for prayer service 7pm.

Holiday Baskets: Please bring in goodies for baskets. Assembly is Friday night, Dec 12, Delivery Dec 13.

Holiday Fellowship: Sunday, December 14th at the Oxendines’ house.

