

## **Privileged to Serve**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Luka Herrera  
Cam Christian

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Phil Byrd

### *Those serving Wednesday*

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

**Pantry Item**  
Canned Fruit

## Sermon Notes *A Man in Prayer*

I. \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

II. \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

III. \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

December 7, 2025

Volume 51 Issue 10

Welcome!

Cape Fear  
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr  
Fayetteville, NC  
28304

Phone:  
(910) 425-1108

Website:  
[capefearcoc.org](http://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

# The Cape Fear Crier

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

## Salvation of Grace by Faith

The *old man of sin* (a lost person) is buried in water baptism. The *new creature in Christ* (a Christian, one saved from sins) is raised up from baptism. Romans 6:3-6, 17-18 makes this clear. You do not bury a live person, but a dead one. Believers do not partake of Christ's death, burial and resurrection at the moment of faith, *they* participate in His sacrifice in baptism. Christ shed his saving blood in his death and when a person is baptized into His death that is where contact with His blood is made.

The blood of Christ washes sins away (Rev. 1:5). When one is baptized then their sins are washed away (by his blood, Acts 22:16). This is salvation by faith! We have no confidence in ourselves nor in works of merit. They simply cannot save. Salvation comes at the point of obedient faith. Obedience proves one has saving faith. Jesus saves those who obey, not the disobedient. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" The moment one believes (faith only), there is no obedience.

Abraham was justified by faith, but not until he obeyed God's command to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. He performed God's work, not his own work. He performed (obeyed, worked) what God commanded. His faith was useless at the point he simply believed. But, it was made complete at the moment he obeyed.

James 2 is complementing Paul in Romans 4 & 5. James is explaining exact details about when saving faith works. Paul's teaching and James' teaching go hand in hand. The teaching of God is not either faith or works, it is both. Faith and works (obedience) cannot be separated. To separate the works of obedience from faith

makes faith dead (vain, useless). The works James is talking about are not works of the law of Moses because they cannot save (Gal. 2:16). He is not talking about works of man's righteousness because they cannot save and have no connection with salvation (Titus 3:5). He is not talking about works of merit where God would owe us (Eph. 2:8-9). James is talking about works of obedience — doing what God commands. We trust in God who gave the commands. We do not trust in the works He commanded and/or our performance of those works. We humbly submit to the Lord in trusting faith and comply with His demands.

In building the ark Noah was not saved the moment he believed God, but when he obeyed God. I Peter 3:21 says he was saved "by water." Does this mean the waters of the flood saved Noah? Yes, that is what the verse says. But, is that all there is? No. We must understand something more in light of the rest of the Bible. And, we must certainly take all the Bible says on the subject of salvation, not just the parts we want to take — not just the parts we want to believe. Many want to pick out faith and exclude the rest. But not those who love the Lord! Let's take all the Bible says on any subject. That does not minimize faith at all. That simply takes God at His word.

All that we do in the plan of salvation is done by faith. We repent by faith, we confess Christ by faith, we are baptized by faith. Without faith, all these things are meaningless. That is why the Bible sums up all the acts of obedience in the plan of salvation by saying that we are saved by faith.

A living, active, and saving faith is one that obeys all the plan of salvation. That is why the jailor was told to "believe" and he would be saved (cf. Acts 16:31-33). Belief sums up all the plan of salvation. The word belief stands for the whole plan of salvation. It is a figure of speech (synecdoche) where a "part" stands for the "whole." Saving faith trusts in God, not ourselves. There's nothing we can do, of ourselves, that will bring about salvation. Salvation does not arise from our own futile works.

Like Noah was saved by water, baptism saves us. The usual rebuttal to baptism saving us is to ignore or dismiss what this part of the verse says and move on to the next phrase and quibble about a clear conscience. When one's active faith prompts him to be baptized, he certainly has a good conscience because he knows he is doing that which God commands him to do. We trust God will extend salvation through the atoning blood of Christ because of His sacrifice on the cross. Baptism has nothing to do with washing the physical body. There's nothing different or unusual about the water. It's just water. But, we trust God by submitting to the act of being baptized in water because that is God's command. We know that Jesus shed His blood in His death and we know that in water baptism we contact His blood because baptism is a likeness of His death, burial and resurrection.

### By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/30  
Chapters Read: 196

B.C.: 25  
Worship: 48

Daily Bible Readers: 9  
Wednesday: 24

## Family News and Notes

**Rob Sparks'** mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is back at home and doing better. **John McDougale**, **Geraldine Harrington's** uncle, is not doing well. Jennifer's coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **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 and the family is going through a lot of stress.

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

Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13
Hos 1-3	Hos 4-6	Hos 7-9	Hos 10-12	Hos 13-14	Joel	Amo 1-3

## Events

**Holiday Baskets:** Please put items on kitchen counter. Assembly Friday night at 7, delivery Saturday.

**Holiday Fellowship:** Saturday, December 13th @ 1pm, at the Oxendines' house. No Men's lunch or Silver Linings for December.

