

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Cam Christian

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Ben Grant
Julius Cook

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: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

Canned Fruit

Sermon Notes
Teach Us To Pray

I. About the _____

II. About _____ Concerns

III. About _____ Concerns

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
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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

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

The Cost of Discipleship

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” (Luke 14:28)

Many times, children of God find it difficult to understand why those outside of Christ do not or will not submit to the Gospel, even when the urgency of accepting God’s soul-saving plan is clearly presented. Aside from the problem of those who feel they have already been “saved” through the misguidance of denominational dogma, it is indeed a wonder why most morally good people do not gladly accept the Bible’s teaching concerning salvation.

The devil understands why...and within his arsenal of evil endeavors is the proliferation of the belief that it costs too much to be a Christian — too many denials of self, too many pleasures lost, too much fun to be missed, and too many “friends” to shun. Young people especially are vulnerable to such thoughts, and may find themselves asking, “Is it true? Is there a price? How much is it? If I become a Christian, will I be happy?” The God answers those questions.

There is a cost to discipleship. It would be deceitful to say that there is no cost, no price to pay in becoming a Christian and living the Christian life. Jesus himself said that one should “count the cost.” It would also be false to say that sin has no pleasures. Hebrews 11:25 speaks of Moses who chose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” There is pleasure in sin, but it is short lived.

The Bible states numerous times there is a cost of following Jesus. First, in Matthew 22:37: “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” Second, in Romans 12:1-2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove, what is that

good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

The first cost is to inform oneself. The builder of the tower in Luke 14:28 is told to sit down and count the cost. Certainly, it would be foolish to do otherwise. A builder must have as much factual information as possible to determine whether or not he can complete his endeavor. Similarly, we must inform ourselves concerning the Christian life. The apostle Paul was understood this in when he urged Timothy, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (II Timothy 2:15). Informing ourselves is a life-long process that leads to the richest of rewards.

The second cost is to transform oneself. When a person repents — when he decides living for self is not the right way to everlasting peace with God — a great transformation occurs. If this change does not happen, a conversion has not taken place. The soul is purified when the heart’s desires are changed and altered, from that of evil to that of righteousness — transformed through obedience to God’s word. *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently”* (I Peter 1:22). We must inform ourselves as to what the Lord wants us to be in order for a transformation to take place.

The third cost is to deny oneself. There is no sin more prevalent than selfishness. Jesus taught in Matthew 16:24 that a person should *“deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”* Those guilty of selfishness cannot worship God as they ought nor will they be interested in helping others as expected. It is no wonder that so many fail to worship and serve Jehovah as sincere, consecrated Christians, when they desire everything for themselves (including money, pleasures, talents, love, desires and glory) and little or nothing for their Heavenly Father. The story of the rich young ruler should be a well remembered lesson, along with the fearful fact that one who refuses to renounce the world will also be renounced by Christ.

The fourth cost is to lose oneself. Jesus taught a vital truth in John 12:25 when he exclaimed, *“He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”* The meaning is simple: one who loves his life too much will live for things of short duration (the pleasures of this earth) with little or no thought of eternity. But the person who is willing to give up the “good things” in this life (who “loses his life” for Christ and His cause) shall find a home eternal in heaven.

It is essential that we count the cost of serving Christ, being His disciple does cost something. We must be informed. We must be transformed. We must learn and determine to deny ourselves daily as Jesus teaches. And, we must lose ourselves in service to the Savior.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/7
Chapters Read: 173

B.C.: 25
Worship: 60

Daily Bible Readers: 9
Wednesday: 17

Family News and Notes

Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s dad, passed away last week. The family is in West Virginia with extended family and church members. **Rob Sparks’** mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is back at home and doing better. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **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.

There will be no Wednesday evening service December 24th!

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20
Amo 4-6	Amo 7-9	Jonah	Mic 1-2	Mic 3-5	Mic 6-7	Nahum
			Obadiah			

Events

New Years’ Eve Fellowship: New Years’ Eve Wednesday will be a singing and dessert fellowship. We will meet in Langston Hall.

Mens’ Lunch: Friday January 2nd at 11am at Golden Corral.

