

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Cam Christian

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Ricardo Alviljar
Julius Cook

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Luka Herrera

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

Uses of Prayer

I. In _____ *Living*

II. In _____

III. In _____

December 21, 2025

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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

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Walking By Faith, Not Opinion

The New Testament Scriptures teach that as the children of God, "*we walk by faith and not by sight*" (II Cor. 5:7). To study the matter if something is faith or opinion, two questions must be asked and correctly answered.

What does it mean to walk by faith?

In Romans 10:17, Paul declares: "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" If there is no message from God, there can be no faith. If the inspired word of God does not specify a given practice, there can be no faith to follow because faith comes by hearing the word of God. Therefore, if we pursue any course that is not outlined by God in the scripture, we cannot walk by faith. But when God speaks, we are obligated to do precisely and fully all that He says.

What does it mean to walk by sight (i.e. opinion)?

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. To those of us who believe the Bible, it is obvious that it is not told why he came by night. Theologians who would attempt to follow their own guidance in the matter offer plenty of options. Such opinions signify what one thinks in religious matters. Men are quick to offer what they think (opinion) when the Bible does not answer questions to their satisfaction.

A matter can be scriptural, unscriptural or anti-scriptural. Consider the common practice of instruments in the worship service. Is instrumental music, when used in the worship service of the saints, a scriptural worship? Is it scriptural and correct for Christians to use mechanical instruments of music in worship to God? This question is very basic, but should be studied by all religious people.

Faith (what the word of God specifies) authorize singing: Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; Ephesians 5:19; I Corinthians 14:15; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12 and Hebrews 13:15. From these passages we can be absolutely sure that singing is right and cannot be wrong. It is so certain, that not singing in Christian worship would constitute sin. However, this is the extent of the authorization, necessary inferences and inspired examples in

the New Testament on how to praise God musically. That is the limit of His instruction, therefore that becomes the absolute limit of our obedience as well. We are warned against adding to the word of God (Prov. 30:6). The absence of any additional instruction speaks volumes, for neither God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Apostle nor any inspired writer ever uttered a single word about using an instrument of music in worship to God. There is no recorded example of a New Testament church using one. Therefore, it would have to be brought into the worship of God by opinion, the tradition of men or the commandment of men (Mark 7:7-9). Remember, we must hear God, not man (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2).

Two Old Testament examples illustrate the principle. Cain's offering was rejected because there was no commandment for him to offer the fruit of the ground (Gen. 4:5). Nadab and Abihu died because they ignored God's commandments (Lev. 10:1-3). They acted in service to God by doing that which God had not commanded them to do. No worship to God is acceptable unless it is authorized by God in his inspired word!

The users of instrumental music in the worship assembly of the saints ignore God and make their worship vain (Matt. 15:7-9). Since the Bible is the complete and final message authorized by God, our obedience can only be to Him (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3). "*Sing and make melody in your heart*" is a very specific command for a specific kind of music. This automatically excludes the use of any other kind.

God commands us to sing. This is the action in worship God directs. If one plays an instrument, that is another act in addition to singing. God has specified that we sing and that the strings of the heart be strummed (Eph. 5:19).

Instrumental music is not an aid to the singing. The scriptural purpose of singing as expressed in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, it cannot, for the chief purpose of singing is teaching and exhorting one another. Instrumental music cannot aid the voice in expression of thought, either for good or bad. The Scriptures themselves offer this idea as an illustration in 1 Corinthians 13:1. Doing anything without love is like playing an instrument - it means nothing. Music in the worship service without teaching and admonishing through conveyance of truths is worthless.

Lay aside all human practices (opinions) in worship to God. Read what God requires of His people in worship and obey (faith). All need to realize that unscriptural objects used in worship are just as sinful as teaching false doctrine. Faithful Christians should in no way be associated with those who use sinful practices or teach false doctrine. This makes the instrument a test of fellowship by the individuals who introduce and use it. The history of the instrument has been one of division and bad feelings of the brethren toward one another. Let us strive to walk by faith, and not by sight.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/14
Chapters Read: 169

B.C.: 25
Worship: 52

Daily Bible Readers: 8
Wednesday: 28

Family News and Notes

Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley's dad, passed away. The family is in West Virginia with extended family and church members. **Rob Sparks'** mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is back at home and doing better after her surgery. **Yshanti, Geraldine Harrington's** granddaughter, is 5 months old but has the flu. **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. Many members are sick in our current cold/flu season.

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 evening service this Wednesday, December 24th!
If you ordered a chronological Bible, see Wade after worship for your copy.***

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27
Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zec 1-2	Zec 3-4	Zec 5-6	Zec 7-9

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.

