

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
Dale Wiles

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Julius Cook

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

When God Says "No"

I. He Has His Own _____

II. He Is Using A _____ Tool

III. It Is Because He _____ Us

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

Music in N.T. Worship

Music in the New Testament church is a vital part of worship and, like all worship, must be *"in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24). Christian worship on the Lord's Day is incomplete, or short, of what God requires if no music is heard in the worship service. Every Christian would expect the Lord's Supper to be observed on the Lord's Day to commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior. The Christian would rightly object to the absence of this observation, even though there are no direct commands to observe this supper (authorized examples and inference are more than adequate to know it is expected)! Christians demand the communion. Equally important is the presence of music in the worship service. There are two types of music: VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL. The kind of music specified by God in the New Testament is VOCAL (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16, etc.). No one argues with this fact. Still, many have taken it upon themselves to add to the kind of music God has authorized—many advocate singing accompanied by mechanical instruments. The Bible authorizes SINGING, but nowhere does it authorize PLAYING mechanical instruments of music.

Twelve passages in the New Testament discuss the practice of singing hymns to God. God never authorizes (commands or allows) the use of anything except the human voice in worship. The question before us is restricted to what God wishes his people in His church to do. Presently, it is not our purpose to examine the Old Testament nor to look ahead and see what might be in heaven. We do not live by the authority of the Old Covenant (Heb. 9:16-17; Gal. 3:24-25), nor are we yet in heaven. What God may have allowed in the Old Testament or possibly may allow in heaven is not the question. What God wants and allows now, in the New Testament age, the church age, the Christian dispensation, is our concern!

The scriptures authorize only singing in the New Testament church. Anything other than God's specified instructions is a violation of His Will. A mechanical instrument of music is an

addition to what God has commanded. Use of the instrument while singing praises to God is a commandment, or allowance, of men and not of God and therefore makes worship accompanied by it vain (Matt. 15:9). We are not to go beyond that which is written (I Cor. 4:6). When we speak, we are to speak as the oracles of God (I Peter 4:11).

God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness in his word (II Peter 1:3). He did not give us the use of mechanical instruments of music in our worship, therefore, their use is not lawful and consequently is sinful to employ them in the act of Christian worship. The command of scripture is to not add to or take from that which is written (Rev. 22:18-19). Mechanical instruments are an addition to God's word and therefore forbidden. Further, the introduction of the instrument in worship is a cause of division, which God hates (Prov. 6:19; Rom. 16:17).

The purposes God has given for music in the worship service can only be accomplished by the human voice. Christians are to speak in song, make melody in the heart, teach, admonish, sing with the spirit, sing with understanding, praise God, and give thanks in song. None of these commands can be accomplished using an instrument. These commands can only be obeyed using the human voice.

Many well-known preachers and scholars of past centuries have spoken out plainly against its use: men such as Adam Clarke, a distinguished Methodist scholar; John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church; John Calvin, the founder of the Presbyterian Church; Charles Spurgeon, a well-known Baptist preacher; and Martin Luther, the founder of the Lutheran Church. These are by no means all, but should serve as an example of the many who opposed its use. The churches of Christ are not alone in the opposition to it. However, mechanical instruments are not wrong because well-known men have stood against them, nor are they wrong because the church of Christ today opposes them. **Mechanical instruments of music are wrong (sinful) because of one reason and one reason alone: there is no Bible authority for their use!**

According to Colossians 3:17, authority is necessary for *everything* we do and say. The only authority for acceptable worship practices in the world is the Bible. Jesus said God's word is Truth (John 17:17). Truth can and will make men free (John 8:32). God has commanded his people to SING in worship, and that is the only command there is. God never commanded to play on a man-made instrument. To introduce mechanical instruments of music into our worship is to violate God's strict and plain command to sing. It makes our worship vain, and vain worship causes people to lose their souls!

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/21
Chapters Read: 119

B.C.: 20
Worship: 38

Daily Bible Readers: 9
Wednesday: —

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, but has improved. **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.

If you ordered a chronological Bible, see Wade after worship for your copy.

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3
Zec 10-12	Zec 13-14	Mal 1-2	Mal 3-4	Pg 1-4	Pg 5-7	Pg 7-12

Events

New Years' Eve Fellowship: New Years' Eve Wednesday will be a singing and dessert fellowship. Bring dessert or holiday leftovers! We will meet in Langston Hall.

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

LBC: Will remain on sabbatical through January.

