

## **Privileged to Serve**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Julius Cook

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Ricardo Alviljar  
Cam Christian

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: Tyler Christian

**Pantry Item**  
Canned Fruit

## Sermon Notes *Total Hereditary Depravity*

I. \_\_\_\_\_ *Sin*

II. \_\_\_\_\_ *Depravity*

III. *Is It God's* \_\_\_\_\_?

January 4, 2026

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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

## **More Thoughts About Music in N.T. Worship**

Since the Father said, “Hear him,” anything Christ or His inspired apostles authorize in Christian worship, we must use. Anything without authority in the New Testament for Christian worship must be excluded from our worship because of the silence of the Scriptures on that practice. God specified vocal music. Whatever might be said in favor of instrumental music, no one doubts that we are worshipping God “in truth” by simply “singing and making melody in our hearts” to God. In so doing, we are allowing the Scriptures to “furnish us completely unto every good work” (II Tim. 3:16,17) and are “not going beyond the things which are written (I Cor. 4:6). The voice of inspired writers says one is walking in truth by singing in worship and leaving off the instrument. The early church fathers testify that in so doing, we are adhering to the kind of music the church, for several hundred years, practiced. Religious reformers like Luther, Calvin, and Wesley bear witness that singing is the kind of worship prescribed in the law of Christ. Today, when many like to think they are “liberal” in religious thinking, those who use mechanical instruments of music in worship must admit that users of vocal music alone occupy New Testament ground in this respect, and are safe, to say the least.

In Colossians 3:17, we read, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*” Singing, or vocal music, exalts the human voice, the instrument God made and Christ authorized for worship. This can be done “in the name of Jesus” or by His authority. Instrumental music exalts a tool, a creation of man, in an attempt to worship our Creator. This is the basic fault of idolatry, which continually kept the Jews in difficulties. In the New Testament, vocal music is authorized by Christ. Since it nowhere authorizes instrumental music, such must be by the authority of men.

To find out where instrumental music originated in Christian worship, we must look to history outside the Bible, since the practice began hundreds of years after the Bible was completed. Here are two

quotations from encyclopedias on Church Music:

*The American Encyclopedia*, Vol. 12, page 688, "Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of Western Europe about 670; but the earliest trustworthy account is that of one sent as a present by the Greek emperor Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of Franks in 755."

*Chambers Encyclopedia*, Vol. 7, page 112, says: "The organ is said to have been introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D. Thus historically and scripturally, instrumental music in Christian worship represents a departure from the faith and practice of the New Testament church."

Christian worship is not for the purpose of entertaining, but for teaching and exalting. We should have no trouble seeing why God demanded vocal music and left out instrumental music. The human voice is capable of doing everything God commands us to do as music in worship. In contrast, the instrument is incapable of doing anything required by music in Christian worship except make melody, and it does not do that in the right place -- the human heart (cf. Col. 3:16; Gal. 5:19).

Suppose one were to take a pencil and paper and draw a line down the center of a blank page, and label the column on the left Commandments of God, and label the column on the right Commandments of Men. Now, with the Word of God as the guide, classify a dozen or so things that are practiced in religion today. Where would *preaching* be placed? Under the Commandments of God. How do we know? Because this is commanded in II Timothy 4:2. What about *prayer*? Taking the *Lord's Supper*? *Baptism*? *Feeding the poor*? The honest Bible student can readily find the book, chapter, and verse for such practices, proving that they are commandments of God. But what about *counting beads*? *Holy water*? *Worshipping images*? These would have to fall under the commandments of men, because these practices are not found in the New Testament (and thus are not authorized). These are mere commandments of men and constitute vain worship. Where would one place *musical instruments*? Since there is no command, example, or implication of their use anywhere in the New Testament, we would be obliged to place it under the heading of Commandments of Men. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

It was not an oversight on God's part that he left instrumental music out of Christian worship. God makes no mistakes. Casting aside all prejudice, can't we honestly say that the reason churches have instrumental music today in worship is because of a desire to do what "we like" rather than what the Lord commands? King Saul was rejected as king because he attempted to do, as service to God, what he had not commanded (cf. I Sam. 15). Nadab and Abihu were destroyed for offering strange fire -- fire which God had not commanded (Lev. 10:1-2). In the light of such examples, can we afford to tamper with Christian worship?  
- BTH

### By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 12/28      B.C.: 24      Daily Bible Readers: 9  
Chapters Read: 153      Worship: 45      Wednesday: 25

## Family News and Notes

**Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley's** dad, passed away. The family is back home. **Cookie** is going to Indonesia to teach the ladies at the Bible college in Manado. She will also speak at two ladies' day events. **Rob Sparks'** mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is back at home and doing better after her surgery. **John McDougale, 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.

## Bible Reading Plan

Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10
Pg 12-16	Pg 16-19	Pg 19-23	Pg 23-29	Pg 29-30	Pg 30-34	Pg 35-37

## Events

**LBC:** Will remain on sabbatical through January.  
**Silver Linings:** Friday, Jan 16 at 11am. Bring your lunch!  
**Winter Fellowship:** at the Hatchers'. Sunday Feb. 1 at 5pm. Bring tailgate fare.

