

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd
Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington
Assisting: Tyler Christian
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: Cam Christian

Pantry Item
Chef-Boy-R-Dee

Sermon Notes *Irresistible Grace*

I. *The Work of the* _____

II. *Upper and Lower* _____

III. _____ *and Sin*

February 8, 2026

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Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

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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

Establishing Biblical Authority (cont'd)

God expresses his authority in the Bible through direct statements, examples for us to imitate, and *clear implications*. Bible authority can also be established by the principle of *expediency*. An “expedient” is anything that assists in the carrying out of our spiritual obligations without changing the nature of those obligations or the end results. It speeds up or helps fulfill a God-given duty. There is no expediency where there is no obligation. A matter of expediency cannot be made a matter of law. It is as great a sin to make an optional matter required as to make a required matter optional.

Christians have the obligation to assemble for worship, but the New Testament makes no requirements as to the place of assembly. When God does not specify how or when a command is to be carried out, it becomes a matter of human judgment, a matter of expedience. Hebrews 10:25 makes assembling mandatory. Other passages make the first day of the week the day to assemble (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). The *time* and place for the first day of the week to meet are not specified and thus are matters of expediency. We could meet in a private home (Col. 4:15), in a public building, or in the open.

The building is an optional expedient authorized by the passages that require us to assemble. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to the lost (Mark 16:15). Printed material, radio and television, public teaching, and private studies are all expedients to that end. We are told to baptize penitent believers (Acts 2:36-38); thus, a baptistry is an expedient for that end. We are told to teach the church (Matt. 28:20). It is expedient to teach different age groups separately; hence, we regularly study the Bible in classes.

“*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*” (Col. 3:17). “In the name of” Christ means “by the authority of” Christ. We **must** have Bible authority for all we believe and practice in spiritual matters. If we believe or practice an item without Bible authority, we

go beyond the teaching of Christ (2 John 9). To operate without this divine approval is to invite the wrath of God (Rev. 22:18,19; Heb. 20:26-31).

The only ways to establish Bible authority for religious beliefs and acts are by (1) direct statements, (2) approved Bible examples, (3) clear implications, and (4) expediency. Anything that is not authorized by one or more of these ways is an addition, and thus is forbidden.

Most of us regard the Bible as the inspired, authoritative word of God, and we believe that the Bible is the authority for what we believe and practice as followers of Jesus. But how does the Bible express its authority? One item already noted is authority by direct statement. To this, we add *Authority by Example*. An example is an account of an action that was taken by someone. It is an example for us to follow if it was done by divine authority and was done to fulfill a God-given duty.

Consider the observance of the Lord's Supper. The Bible reveals the Lord's command to eat the Supper (1 Cor. 11:24-25). But the command does not state when it is to be observed. The early Christians ate it on the first day of the week: "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them...*" (Acts 20:7). If the day to eat the Lord's Supper was unimportant, why did the inspired historian even mention it? The grammatical construction in the Greek text indicates that this was a continuous, habitual practice.

The Lord's Supper is definitely linked to the first day of the week (Sunday). The example of the early Christians gives us divine authority to eat the Supper on the first day of the week. We have no Biblical authority for eating it on Thursday night, daily, or on any other occasion. It is to be done only on the first day of the week. There are some circumstances in Acts 20:7-8 that are permitted but not required. Those disciples met in an upper room, but that is not a binding circumstance. The place is unimportant (John 4:19-24).

Whether an example is binding in the sense that it is required or whether it is simply permitted must be determined by considering all the Bible has to say on the subject at hand. The examples that fulfill permanent commands are obligatory for us. This is the case with Acts 20:7. Examples that are unnecessary to the fulfillment of a command are authorized but not required. This is the case with the Macedonians, who gave more than they prospered.

The fact that the Bible gives an account of some action does not mean that the example is intended as a binding example. Some actions were temporary (such as miracles, 1 Cor. 13:8-13), and some actions were sinful (Acts 5:1-11). These examples, therefore, are not to be considered binding actions for us to follow.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 1/11
Chapters Read: 235

B.C.: 41
Worship: 65

Daily Bible Readers: 11
Wednesday: 26

Family News and Notes

Sister Margaret Langston passed away last week. There will be a memorial service here at the building. **Matt Paschall**, a student at the Memphis School of Preaching and a close personal friend to Kyle & Dustin Pool, and Brynn Hatcher, passed away last week. Kyle is in Memphis for the funeral; Dustin is one of the pallbearers. **Cookie** is in Indonesia to teach the ladies at the Bible college in Manado. She will also speak at two ladies' day events. **John McDougle**, **Geraldine Harrington's** uncle, is not doing well. Jennifer's coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **Will Pringle**, Drew Perrin's neighbor, suffered a stroke. **Barbara Norris**, **Jeanette Freshley's** mother, is struggling with her health. **Linda Jenkins'** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins'** parents need prayers, and the family is experiencing significant 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

Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14
Pg 148-150	Pg 151-156	Pg 156-160	Pg 160-165	Pg 165-167	Pg 167-171	Pg 171-173

Events

Teachers' Meeting: This morning after worship.

Silver Linings: Friday, Feb 20 @ 11 am. Bring your lunch

