

## **Privileged to Serve**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Tyler Christian

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Phil Byrd  
Kyle Pool

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Louden Herrera

### *Those serving Wednesday*

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Cam Christian

**Pantry Item**  
Boxed Rice

## Sermon Notes *The Kingdom of Christ*

I. *It Belongs to* \_\_\_\_\_

II. *It is* \_\_\_\_\_

III. *It is* \_\_\_\_\_

March 15, 2026

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Welcome!

Cape Fear  
Church of Christ

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28304

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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

## God and Righteousness

Matthew records Jesus saying, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:20). Righteousness is essential to salvation. Righteousness is defined as the quality of being morally right, justifiable, or having a right relationship with God. Righteousness is doing what God says to do and abstaining from those things He prohibits. Righteousness is essential, and we are well able to achieve it. John wrote, "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (1 John 3:7). The Bible is replete with commands and examples of being righteous and maintaining righteousness.

God is revealed to possess the quality of righteousness. Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:16,17). The righteousness of God, when revealed to and accepted by man, will produce righteousness in him so that he can be accepted by God. The revelation was a mystery, unknown in Old Testament times, but is now freely available to all. This is the gospel whereby men are saved. This is the system of righteousness that must be lived out by faith in Jesus Christ. Righteousness is not by performing the works of the Law of Moses, but by the gospel plan of salvation. "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3:11).

The just will live by faith. Habakkuk penned this idea first, "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4). Living by faith produces righteousness. Faith is generated by a knowledge of God's word (Rom. 10:17). That faith leads to a relationship with the Heavenly

Father and a desire to obey His commands. This beneficial relationship reminds the faithful that God is in control. He is just. He is working for our good. He works so that those seeking Him will find Him. He keeps His promises, and Heaven will be the faithful's eternal abode. Living faith is established by God's word, but continues to be nourished by prayer and sincere, truthful worship.

God views righteousness as being filled with the fruits of righteousness. Paul reminded the church at Philippi, "*Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God*" (Phil. 1:11). Fruits of righteousness are not an optional matter. The goal of the Christian is spiritual maturity so that fruit can be produced. By the mercy of God, one can break free from the darkness of past sins and become an instrument of God's love and grace. God's children are motivated by their love for Him. As His children exhibit righteousness daily, they invite others to share in that loving relationship with the Father. The one who conforms to the Scriptures is the one whom God deems righteous. Jesus said, "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*" (Matt. 5:6). Righteousness is to be pursued, and it is within everyone's ability to obtain it. Take God's word into the heart, enjoy the peace that fills one's life, and from that peace-filled heart, live out one's faith with joy.

God knows that man cannot be righteous on his own. God has that ability; man does not. Paul makes the argument against man in Romans 3:9-11, "*What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*" Both Jews and Gentiles are in the same predicament! None can be righteous on their own. There is no law they can obey perfectly; therefore, all are concluded to be under sin (vs. 23). Peter offers great hope to those seeking the Lord. "*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil*" (1 Pet 3:12). Those who do not obey the commands of God are considered evil, but those who willingly obey Him are righteous, and He hears their prayers. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the Apostles, and the disciples could not rely on their own means to be righteous; it is by doing God's will that one is considered righteous before Him. James makes it clear, "*Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God*" (Jam. 2:21-23). Abraham was considered righteous in the same manner as all are, by trusting in God and being obedient to His word.

-BTH

### By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 3/8  
Chapters Read: 491

B.C.: 35  
Worship: 60

Daily Bible Readers: 14  
Wednesday: 32

## Family News and Notes

**Jason Lawrence** is having severe eye problems and suffered a dog bite. **Rob & Amy Sparks** have been battling illness. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington's** uncle, is not doing well. Jennifer's coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **Bethany McKinley** is having a difficult pregnancy; she is due August 10. **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, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Kathie Byrd, Margaret Mosley, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez,** and the **Davis** family.

Pray for the FOM class Brother Hatcher is teaching at the Bennettsville church of Christ in Bennettsville, SC. There are 15 students in the class.

## Bible Reading Plan

Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21
Pg 279-282	Pg 282-286	Pg 286-291	Pg 291-296	Pg 296-301	Pg 301-305	Pg 305-309

## Events

**Ladies' Bible Class:** Class returns Tuesday at 10 am!

**Silver Linings:** Friday, at 11 am. Bring your lunch

**Baby Shower:** For Bethany McKinley, April 25th. Registered on Amazon. More details to come.

