

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Cam Christian

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Ben Grant
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: David Inman

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: David Inman

Pantry Item

Small bottle Ketchup

Sermon Notes *Three Returns of Jesus*

I. Return From The _____

II. Return To The _____

III. Return In The _____

April 5, 2026

Volume 53 Issue 1

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

The Last Days

If you mention "the last days" or "the end time," some people get very excited. Fear fills the hearts of some, while a sense of expectation comes to others. To some, "the last days" suggests the imminent return of Jesus Christ and judgment upon mankind. Misunderstandings about this important Bible topic cause these different reactions.

Those who believe and obey God's word have nothing to fear about these events. On the contrary, the Bible calls the glorious appearing of Jesus the Christian's "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). Jesus' return is something to be desired. It will be the time when God's servants will receive their eternal reward. Some, however, dread the appearing of Jesus Christ because they know they are unprepared for the judgment day. These people probably have heard tales of the great tribulation and the battle of Armageddon. Not knowing exactly what to expect, they fear such events.

The book of Hebrews begins by telling us "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...*" (Heb. 1:1,2). According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus spoke in the last days. Jesus taught the Father's will during his earthly ministry (John 7:16,17). Yet, the writer of Hebrews informs his readers that God communicated His will to mankind during these last days. All scripture was given by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16). The writer of Hebrews was an inspired penman giving us divine revelation. From His perspective, God was still speaking through His Son in those last days. This is a reference to the time Hebrews was being written. The book of Hebrews was written a few decades after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The inescapable conclusion is that the "last days" began in the first century!

The second chapter of the book of Acts provides another proof of this fact. On the day of Pentecost, after Jesus ascended, Peter and the other apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Peter began explaining to the people what was happening. He told

them that their speaking in tongues was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Peter said, *“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams”* (Acts 2:16,17). Peter said the events of that day were in “the last days.” This explanation needs to be accepted for the simple truth it presents. Not only did the writer of Hebrews live in the last days, but so did Peter. On that important day, nearly two thousand years ago, the church came into existence (Acts 2:47). All Christians have been living in the last days.

The apostle John gave his readers an interesting warning in his first letter. He told them, *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time”* (I John 2:18). John wanted Christians to be on guard against the errors of false teachers who taught things contrary to the doctrine of Christ. He said that some were even denying that Jesus came in the flesh. Such teachers were set against the will of Christ. This is why these people were called antichrists. John said their existence proved it was the last time.

John was in total harmony with Paul's statement in II Timothy 3:1-5. Paul wrote, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* Both John and Paul were talking about conditions that existed in their day. Saying these warnings only apply to the time shortly before the world ends is a gross perversion of God's word. To be fair, though, the last time does include the time when Jesus comes again. Peter said the Christian's eternal inheritance (i.e., salvation) will be revealed in the last time (I Peter 1:5).

Many people have been deceived into thinking that the Bible's “last days” or “last time” is a special period of abounding wickedness and great tribulation immediately preceding the return of Jesus Christ. Paul did say that perilous times shall come, but he was referring to the church age just as all the New Testament writers did.

The last days began almost 2,000 years ago and will last until the end of time. They are called the last days for a good reason. God *“hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained...”* (Acts 17:31). That means time is running out for this world. When Jesus comes back, this sin-filled world and every sinner will be destroyed with fire. Each day that goes by takes us one day closer to the end of this age.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 3/29
Chapters Read: 561

B.C.: 34
Worship: 55

Daily Bible Readers: 18
Wednesday: 35

Family News and Notes

Linda Fleming is still in the hospital after a car accident. **Jonathan Mckinley's** grandmother, **Sharon McKinley**, passed away. **Deven Williamson** broke her ankle and will be in an air cast for 6 weeks. **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 17 students in the class. We are in week 5.

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11
Pg 368-372	Pg 372-377	Pg 377-381	Pg 381-384	Pg 384-388	Pg 389-393	Pg 393-398

Events

Game Day: Saturday, April 11 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Silver Linings: Friday April 17th @ 11am. Bring your lunch

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

Annual Lectures: Sheffield Drive C of C, May 2nd, 9-3. Lunch provided.

