

## **Privileged to Serve**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements: Julius Cook  
Song Leader: Chad Futrell  
Opening Prayer: David Inman  
Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Tyler Christian  
Assisting: Sibio Farrington  
Louden Herrera  
Sermon: Byran Hatcher  
Closing P.: Phil Byrd

### *Those serving Wednesday*

Teacher: Byran Hatcher  
Announcements: Byran Hatcher  
Devotional: Julius Cook  
Song Leader: Chad Futrell  
Closing Prayer: David Inman

## **Pantry Item**

Small bottle Mustard

## Sermon Notes *The Reward In Heaven*

I. *The Reward is* \_\_\_\_\_

II. *The Reward is* \_\_\_\_\_

III. *The Reward is* \_\_\_\_\_

April 19, 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

## Unashamed

Paul began his lengthy treatise on justification by faith with this bold affirmation: *“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). When there is only one way to be forgiven, and thus justified before God, it would be unwise to downplay its importance. Each Christian must be committed to upholding and defending this great message from God (Jude 3). This message is one of love. God’s love for humanity!

Committing to the saving message of the gospel will bring the righteous into conflict with the ungodly of the world. This friction can tempt some to compromise their convictions. Whether the pressure to yield comes from persecution (as it did for first-century Christians) or simply from the desire to fit in with the world (Rom. 12:1,2), followers of Christ need to recall the Master's words. Jesus warned His disciples, *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels”* (Luke 9:26).

Some early Christians apparently were tempted to avoid disagreements concerning the Gospel. Paul told Timothy, *“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God”* (II Tim. 1:8).

There is more than one way disciples show their shame of

the gospel message. Perhaps the most obvious is being completely silent about religious matters. In some circumstances, silence may indeed be golden, but when it comes to God's Word, silence probably shows one is cowardly. Silence typically indicates a fear of engaging in a discussion about the Gospel. Recall that Jesus said, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 10:32,33). Occasionally, however, silence is the wisest course of action. Jesus showed this during His sham "trial" (Mark 14:57-61; 15:3-5).

Perhaps many believe that by not bringing up religion at all, they can still be faithful and avoid upsetting non-Christians. Taking this thinking to its extreme means one would never attempt to teach even one soul, contrary to Jesus' command (Matt. 28:18-20). This would not be counted as being faithful to the Lord and His will. The devil knows very well how to shut the mouths of weak members.

Another way people show they are ashamed of the Gospel is in failing to stand for the truth (Gal. 2:5). Apparently, some do not believe in the uniqueness of the Lord's church. Sadly, many so-called Christians do not have strong convictions about truth or the Kingdom and are unwilling to defend it (Phil. 1:7). The Gospel is a very narrow way which obviously excludes many (Matt. 7:13,14; Acts 4:12).

Some disciples feel so uncomfortable with this message that they may compromise the message. Some make so many concessions of the truth as to say that the message is unnecessary. In so doing, they have denied their Lord and His church. Others show their discomfort with being identified as Christians by not praying in public places (e.g., restaurants). Still others fail to openly carry a Bible lest they be taunted. In an increasingly anti-Christian society, such fickle followers will soon fall away (Luke 8:13).

Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because he knew it was the only way for man to be saved. Stand with Brother Paul and the strong Christians of the first century. Then Jesus will claim you as one of His own (Heb. 2:11; 11:16).

- BTH

### By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 4/12  
Chapters Read: 471

B.C.: 35  
Worship: 73

Daily Bible Readers: 16  
Wednesday: 37

### Family News and Notes

**Linda Fleming** is at home doing rehab. **Deven Williamson** broke her ankle and will be in an air cast for 6 weeks. Jennifer's coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles. **Bethany McKinley** is doing much better in her pregnancy; she is due August 10. **Louis Johnston** is struggling from a recent root canal. **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley's** mother, is struggling with her health. **Linda Jenkins'** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington's** uncle, is not doing well. **Kim Perkins'** parents need prayers, and the family is experiencing significant stress. **Julius Cook's** uncle passed away in New York, they are attending the funeral.. Many members are sick in our current cold/flu season.

Also remember: **Linda Boston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Phil & 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 16 students in the class. We are in week 8.

### Bible Reading Plan

Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25
Pg 429-434	Pg 434-438	Pg 439-441	Pg 441-445	Pg 445-449	Pg 449-453	Pg 454-458

### Events

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

**Baby Shower:** April 25th at the McKinley residence from 1-3pm. Bethany is registered on Amazon.

**Potluck Lunch:** After morning services next Sunday.

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

