

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Julius Cook
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Ben Grant
Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian
Assisting: Luka Herrera
Cam Christian
Sermon: Byran Hatcher
Closing P.: Louden Herrera

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 *Eternal Punishment*

I. *The* _____

II. *The* _____

III. *The* _____

April 26, 2026

Volume 53 Issue 4

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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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 Blind and Hardened Heart

Attitude is of utmost importance when confronted with spiritual matters. The Lord states that people are not just to “hear” (Matt. 13:9), but also to give heed to “what” (Mark 4:24) and “how” (Luke 8:18) they hear. Following this teaching of Christ will prevent the religious confusion and error that is so prevalent.

Spiritually speaking, the only “seed” the Bible commands to be sown is “the word of God” (Luke 8:11). It is not difficult to understand the principle that seed will always reproduce after its kind (Gen. 1:11). In the physical realm, if one sows the wrong seed, he will not have the harvest he envisioned. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, the sowing of the wrong seed (false doctrine) will not produce the harvest (a heavenly home) that so many are anticipating. The Word of God (proper seed) in its purity must be taught, believed, and obeyed if the promised blessing of a home in heaven is to be realized. Yes, God’s promised blessings are conditional, and even a casual reading of the Bible should impress one with this truth.

It is important what man thinks in his heart (Prov. 23:7) “*for out of it are the issues of life*” (Prov. 4:23). The apostle Paul writes that “*with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Rom. 10:10). Jesus teaches the first and great commandment is to “*love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind*” (Matt. 22:37). The heart being discussed is not the physical heart, but the mind or intellect of man. The parable of the sower depicts different types of hearts or soils (Matt. 13:38; 18-23). The types of soils commented on in the Bible represent different attitudes toward the precious Gospel.

The devil, “*seeking whom he may devour*” (I Peter 5:8), knows that sin will separate one from God (Isa. 59:1-2). When Paul spoke in the synagogue at Ephesus, there were some who were “*hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way...*” (Acts 19:9). Isaiah prophesied about people with fat hearts, heavy ears, and shut eyes,

lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn again, and be healed” (Isa. 6:10, ASV). Jesus mentioned this prophecy in noting people who refused to believe the truth He taught, even though they had seen the miracles He worked (John 12:37, 39-40).

Today, countless millions refuse to “see” and “hear” the Word of God! In the parable of the sower, some seed fell by the “way side” (Matt. 13:4). Even though contact is made with the seed (Word of God), certain people will refuse to understand (Matt. 13:19). The Bible message is the same for every human being, and all mankind can understand the Bible alike! Paul admonishes, *“Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17).*

Pride can keep one from submitting to God's commands. The Jews of Jesus' day are classic examples of pride causing people to refuse and reject the truth. The Jews were eagerly anticipating the coming of the Messiah, but foolish pride led them to resist Christ when He came. The problem was clearly identified by Christ when He was confronted by the religious leaders of His day. *“...The Pharisees and the scribes ask him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with defiled hands? ... he said unto them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites. ... This people honoreth me with their lips, But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men. Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men. And he said unto them, Full well do ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your tradition” (Mark 7:5-9).*

Prejudice and bias allow many to continue cultivating a blind, hardened heart. So many are guided by their feelings and emotions rather than by logic and reasoning. But the way of man is not in himself (Jer. 10:23), and just because a thing feels right does not make it so (Prov. 14:12)! People are influenced by their environment and by what they are taught. “Feelings” become the standard by which they live. It is difficult, at best, to lay aside all prejudice and bias and be determined to be influenced only by the word of God.

Those within and without the Lord's church must strive to have the attitude of the noble Bereans. *“Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).* One's mind (heart) must be ready to receive the word of God. The Gospel was proclaimed to thousands in Acts chapter two, but only those who “gladly received” (Acts 2:41) the word were baptized into Christ.

(Cont'd next week)

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 4/19
Chapters Read: 445

B.C.: 35
Worship: 63

Daily Bible Readers: 15
Wednesday: 32

Family News and Notes

Linda Fleming is at home doing rehab. **Deven Williamson** broke her ankle and will be in an air cast for 3 more 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. **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. **Geraldine** is having some health concerns. **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, 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 9.

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 2
Pg 458-462	Pg 462-466	Pg 466-469	Pg 469-475	Pg 475-479	Pg 481-486	Pg 486-490

Events

Men's Lunch: Friday at 11am at Golden Corral.

Teacher's Meeting: Next Sunday after morning services.

Annual Lectures: Sheffield Drive C of C, Saturday from 9-3. Lunch provided. Lessons on the Holy Spirit.

Memorial Day Cookout: At Lake Rim Park May 25th, 11:30-3. Bring food and games.

