

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Tyler Christian

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Ricardo Alvarilla
David Inman

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: Barry Hatcher

Pantry Item
Bottled Water

Sermon Notes

Wisdom in Evangelism

I. *There are* _____

II. *There are* _____

III. *There are* _____

May 3, 2026

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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 (cont'd)

Those who have accepted man's invitation to salvation (“Just accept Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior”) while rejecting the Gospel's invitation to salvation (*Hearing*, Rom. 10:17; *Believing*, Heb. 11:6, John 8:24; *Repentance*, Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38; *Confession*, Rom. 10:9-10; *Immersion for remission of sins*, Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4) need to cast aside bias and prejudice and determine to follow Christ. Those within the Lord's body who are rejecting a standard of authority and a God-given pattern need to repent and determine to be guided by the word that will judge all mankind at the last day (John 12:48).

A heart without strong convictions will become blinded to God's truth. One's allegiance will either be to God or to man, and to things spiritual or to things material. Jesus said, “*No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*” (Matt. 6:24). The Master also said, “*He that is not with me is against me...*” (Matt. 12:30). There is no middle ground that is safe and secure.

Strong convictions for God's Word are woefully lacking among people today. People do have strong convictions, but not for the Word of God. The “situation ethics” philosophy and the “end justifies the means” concepts are alive and well in the hearts (minds) of many. Most people's response to whether something is right or wrong is based on emotional evaluations rather than reason or conviction. Such will always lead to division, confusion, and every person doing what is “right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). That did not work out well for the people then, and it will not benefit us today.

A blind and hardened heart to God's truth will argue that one church is as good as another and encourage people to attend the church of their choice. Please lay aside your “feelings” for just a moment and let us reason from the Scriptures. Christ promised to

build His church (Matt. 16:18). He purchased His church with His blood (Acts 20:28). He is the head of the church, which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). How many “heads” does a body have? How many “bodies” does a head have? It is no wonder that the Bible affirms that there is *“one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all”* (Eph. 4:4-6). This is why the Scriptures affirm, *“For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free...”* (I Cor. 12:13). Those with integrity will admit that all man-made religious groups wear different names, believe different doctrines, worship and serve in different ways, and have different interpretations of the Holy Scripture. How can people convince themselves that so many diverse beliefs compose the “one body?”

A blind and hardened heart will argue that the Bible does not say “thou shalt not use instrumental music in worship.” Lay aside emotion, feeling, and personal preferences, and let us reason from the Scriptures. Instead of appealing to the silence of the Scriptures, one must appeal to what is authorized. Christ, as head of the church, has the right to command. The Bible teaches, *“And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”* (Col. 3:17). To do something “in the name of the Lord Jesus” is to do it by His authority! Christ has authorized “singing,” not “playing” on an instrument (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). One will search in vain for Bible authority of instrumental music! Neither must one forget that he cannot, with divine approval, “add to” or “take from” God’s Holy Word (Deut. 4:2; II John 9-11; Rev. 22:18-19).

An ever-growing number today have absolutely no desire to examine the Scriptures to see if their actions meet God’s approval. The worldly desire to please oneself and satisfy one’s own wishes is so entrenched in today’s society that more and more people harden their hearts to the word of God. The appeal here is made to all to have the conviction to be guided by the Holy Scriptures (Psalm 119:105). The noble Bereans were commended because *“they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11). Our prayer is that their tribe might increase! To be pleasing unto God, one *“must worship...in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). This means that a person will have the desire to do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reason. God’s Word reveals what is right to everyone and can be understood by all who do not possess a blind and hardened heart.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 4/26
Chapters Read: 417

B.C.: 32
Worship: 60

Daily Bible Readers: 13
Wednesday: 25

Family News and Notes

Linda Jenkins had successful surgery on Thursday. Tommy Turnage's coworker, **Charles Pierce**, died suddenly last week. He leaves behind a wife and children. **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 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.

The FOM class Brother Hatcher is teaching is in week 9. Graduation is May 17th.

Bible Reading Plan

May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9
Pg 490-493	Pg 493-497	Pg 497-501	Pg 501-507	Pg 507-512	Pg 512-517	Pg 517-522

Events

Teacher’s Meeting: This morning after services.

Silver Linings: Friday May 15 at 11am. Bring your lunch!

Memorial Day Cookout: At Lake Rim Park May 25th, 11:30-3. Bring food and games. Meat for Burgers and Hotdogs will be provided. Put name on sign-up sheet in foyer.

