

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: David Inman

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Julius Cook
Louden Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: David Inman

Pantry Item
Small Tuna Cans

Sermon Notes
The Heart of God

I. The _____

II. The _____

III. The _____

July 19, 2026

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

Volume 54 Issue 2

The
Cape Fear Crier

“Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 12:6

Defending the Gospel

An important part of Christianity, just as important as any other, is defending the truth. One cannot read the Bible without clearly seeing this idea taught and practiced over and over again. What is sad, however, is that members of the Lord's church rarely practice this command today. It seems that many brethren are eager to compromise the truth instead of defend it; that many are eager to let the truth fall rather than stand and fight for it. The end result of failing in this vital area is liberalism tearing the church apart. There is not a week that passes without my receiving a bulletin or whispers about some congregation advertising its singing group, gymnasium opening, monthly fellowship with other denominations, children's church, etc. There is no authority for these practices, and they are definitely not expedient, yet they are being practiced anyway. What must be done by faithful brethren is to “fight the good fight of the faith.”

We must settle in our minds intellectually that there is an objective truth. The idea that “your truth is different than my truth” is an absurdity. We must have conviction in our hearts that we know the truth and are willing to defend it, no matter the cost. Departure from God's word has gone this far, and no farther!

Paul, when writing to the Philippians, stated, “...because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel...” (Phil 1:7). “Defense” is translated from the word *apologia*, which means a verbal defense given by reasoned argument. “Confirmation” is translated from the word *bebaiosis*, which means to strengthen. Thus, Paul was saying that the Philippians were partakers with him in giving a verbal defense of the Gospel through reasoned argument, and were strengthening the Gospel in the process.

The Gospel is strengthened when the truth is taught, and error is exposed. Paul wrote to Titus of men who are “*unruly and vain*”

talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision” (1:10). Paul went on to explain that they “*subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not*” (v.11). This is not the means whereby the Gospel is confirmed, thus Paul said, “*whose mouths must be stopped...wherefore rebuke them sharply*” (vs.11,13). By stopping their mouths, which is done by giving a sharp rebuke, the Gospel is confirmed, because the truth is placed beside error, and those who are seeking truth will see it and embrace it (Matt 7:7,8).

In Philippians 1:17, Paul wrote of men who were preaching the Gospel for the right reason, knowing that Paul himself was “set for the defense of the gospel.” How is it that those who loved the truth, thus preached the truth, knew that Paul was set for the defense of that same truth? They could only know it if Paul had shown this in his life, which, from the book of Acts, we know he did. Acts 13:45 records that the Jews of Antioch “*spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*” Did Paul respond to this false doctrine by saying, “Can’t we all just get along?” Did he say, “Well, you see it your way, and I see it my way, so let’s agree to disagree?” Absolutely not! The record says, “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold” (v.46). “Waxed bold” is translated from the word *parrhesiazomai*, which means to speak with confidence and assurance. On another occasion, Paul said, “Hear ye my defense” (Acts 22:1).

Not only did Paul practice defending the truth, but he also instructed Timothy to “*charge some that they teach no other doctrine*” (I Tim 1:3). To “charge” means to command or to give an order. Timothy was to command that no other doctrine be taught. Truth in the form of the Gospel of Christ was the only acceptable teaching to be done. In order for Timothy to fulfill the command of Paul, he had to know what the truth was (John 8:32) and know when error was being taught. Many of our brethren today are saying things like: “We cannot really know the truth. As long as we all believe in Jesus, it doesn’t matter what is being taught.” If Timothy were here today, he would most certainly “charge” them to stop teaching “*another gospel, which is not another, but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ*” (Gal. 1:6-9).

Let us be as bold as Jesus, who told the Sadducees, “*You do err not knowing the Scriptures*” (Matt. 22:29). And, as Jesus warned of the false teachers of His day (Matt. 16:6-12), so we must do the same in ours. Paul wrote, “*Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*” (Rom 16:17). We cannot sit idly by and do otherwise.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 7/12	B.C.: 34	Daily Bible Readers: 15
Chapters Read: 438	Worship: 65	Wednesday: 36

Family News and Notes

Wade Hedgepeth is still struggling with health issues. The doctors are trying to regulate his medications. **Margaret Mosley** is in rehab after a fall, but is doing better. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles. Gloria Frye’s daughter, **Kathy Taylor**, is enduring extreme pain with multiple health issues. **Bethany McKinley** is due August 10, and it’s a girl! **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** mother, is struggling with her health. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers, and the family is experiencing significant stress. Also remember: **Linda Boston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Phil & Kathie Byrd, Margaret Mosley, Linda Hernandez,** and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25
Pg 886-893	Pg 894-900	Pg 900-905	Pg 906-909	Pg 909-918	Pg 918-927	Pg 927-935

Events

Men’s Training: Sunday, July 26, after morning worship. Please sign up at the small table in the foyer.

Teachers’ Meeting: August 9th, after morning worship. We are preparing for the fall quarter.

