

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Luka Herrera

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Troy Miles
Louden Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Cam Christian

Pantry Item
Canned Peaches

Sermon Notes
Life Is Surprising

I. _____ Prayers

II. _____

III. *Amazing* _____

September 27, 2026

Volume 54 Issue 12

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
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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

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 Lord's Army

One of the most striking pictures of the church is the simile of the body of Christ depicted as an army. A militant spirit ought to characterize the church as each member marches loyally under the banner of their Heavenly King. The purpose of this conflict is to become conquerors over Satan and evil.

The warfare spoken of is not carnal or physical, but a spiritual or moral conflict. This conflict is truth against error, knowledge against ignorance, light against darkness, righteousness against unrighteousness, and Christ against Satan.

In the battle against false ways and evil forces we must “*put on the whole armor of God*” (Eph. 6:11), “*war a good warfare*” (I Tim. 1:18), and “*fight the good fight of faith*” (I Tim. 6:12). The purpose of standing against evil and defending the right is so that we may one day be able to enjoy the bliss of heaven. This is the end that Paul had in mind when he wrote “*to stand against the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11), “*to withstand in the evil day*” (Eph. 6:13), and “*to lay hold on eternal life*” (I Tim. 6:12). We do not have the option to enter this battle and to leave it at our own discretion and be pleasing to God. Those who are his New Testament people are either with him or against him. In this conflict between righteousness and unrighteousness, neutrality is out of the question (cf. Matt. 12:30).

Sadly, even some of our brethren are no longer fighting. Please consider the following features of the Lord's army:

Christ is the commander-in-chief of the army. The commander of our salvation is without spot and blemish. He is a perfect commander (Heb. 2:10; 4:15; 7:26; I Peter 2:22). He has all power in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). He is the head of all things to the church (Eph. 1:22-23). We make no mistake by following Christ (Heb. 12:1-3; I Cor. 11:1). To follow Christ means that our God will supply for us that which is necessary for our protection in this conflict with evil (Eph. 6:10-17). We must put on the armor, unsheathe the sword of the Spirit, and engage the enemy head-on. To follow Christ means also that we are to be praying soldiers (Eph. 6:18), adding the

Christian graces (II Peter 1:5-11), maturing in the Christian life (Heb. 5:12-14; II Peter 3:18) and willing to examine self (II Cor. 13:5). With such information before us, we can say with Paul, *“For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (II Tim. 1:12).

The Lord’s Army is an all-volunteer army. One is not drafted into this army, but it is for *“whosoever will come”* (Rev. 22:17; Matt. 11:28-30). No one is forced to serve God. Before entering this army, one must decide if the cause is worth fighting for and whether there will be victory. The apostle Paul has well supplied the answer to such questions in Romans 6:23. Here we read, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Salvation is in and through Christ (Acts 4:12). In order for the volunteer to become a part of Christ’s spiritual army, he must possess *faith* (Rom. 10:17); he must *repent* (Acts 17:30); he must *confess faith* in Christ (Acts 8:37), and he must be *baptized* for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38). He who will do this and be a loyal soldier has in prospect a glorious retirement in death (Rev. 14:13).

Only one weapon is supplied to the soldiers of the army. So far, every observation suggests an army unusual in its makeup. One offensive weapon is unusual in a physical army. The single weapon referred to is the *“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6:17). This instrument of spiritual battle is sharper than any literal two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). This sword will lay bare our false pride, prejudice, compromise, and friendship with the forces of evil. When this weapon is familiar to us, and we use it obediently, we will be victorious over unrighteousness. When attired with truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace, the broad shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, we become heaven’s most powerful argument against sin. However, remember that God knows what we are doing and what we are not doing with what he has supplied us (Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13). Satan is the powerful enemy not to be underestimated. There are a number of names found in the Bible for this evil opponent. The word Satan means *adversary*. This term is used in the Old Testament 19 times with 14 of them found in the book of Job. It is used 35 times in the New Testament. Satan is an adversary who lies in wait. The term devil means *slanderer or false accuser*. From these two names alone, we can see that we must never let our guard down. To remove the sentry while the enemy is near would render us foolish (I Peter 5:8; Eph. 6:11; II Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:15-17). May we continually be mindful of Peter’s words about the devil: *“Whom resist steadfast in the faith”* (I Peter 5:9).

One day there will be a great reunion for the faithful soldiers of Christ when He comes to take us home (I Thess. 4:13-18). The crown will be awarded because we *“fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith”* (II Tim. 4:7).

—BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 9/20 B.C.: 30 Daily Bible Readers: 8
Chapters Read: 377 Worship: 52 Wednesday: 26

Family News and Notes

Margaret Mosley remains in rehab. **Triahnna Miles’** mother, **Troy Miles’** grandmother, is not doing well. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles, but has received some good news about her diagnosis. **Nikki Inman** needs prayer concerning her liver. Also pray that she finds employment. **Namika Harley** has some circulation problems. **Gloria Frye’s** daughter, **Kathy Taylor**, is enduring extreme pain with multiple health issues. **Joseph Brown**, Cookie’s brother, has had seizures. **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** mother, is struggling with her health; also, her aunt, **Elizabeth Cremeans**, passed away. **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. **Ben Grant’s** uncle passed away recently. **Lauren Oxendine’s** mother has a benign tumor on her spine that requires delicate surgery. **Debbie Smith** has a procedure next week.

Also remember: **Linda Boston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry Hatcher, Phil & Kathie Byrd, Margaret Mosley, Irene Frydler, Linda Hernandez, Ellen Brantley**, and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3
P 1282-86	P 1286-89	P 1289-92	P 1293-96	P 1297-00	P 1300-04	P 1304-07

Events

Sheffield Drive Gospel Meeting: Sept 27-30. 6pm Sunday. 7:30pm weeknights
Loris Lecturship: October 24 from 9 - 2. Lunch provided.

