Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements:	Byran Hatcher
Song Leader:	Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer:	Kyle Pool
Lord's Table: Presiding:	Sibio Farrington
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:	Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

Sermon Notes

Establishing My Own Righteousness

I. _____ of God's Word

II. _____ God's Word

III. _____ God's Word

November 1, 2026

Volume 55 Issue 5

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:
Tuesdays10:00am

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Superficial Christianity

Webster defines "superficial" as "(1) being on the surface; not penetrating the substance of a thing; as a superficial color; a superficial covering; (2) hollow; contrived to cover something; and (3) not deep or profound; reaching or comprehending only what is obvious or apparent; as a superficial scholar; superficial knowledge." Superficial Christianity looks good on the surface, but it is of no "value against the indulgences of the flesh" (Col. 2:23). Our Lord calls for sacrificial, not superficial faith. The two are incompatible.

First, a superficial faith produces a comfortable Christianity; one that does not interfere with one's predisposed lifestyle. It is a Christianity that places no restrictions upon an individual, requires no repentance, exacts no restrictions, and asks for no sacrifice. Unaccustomed to feeding upon the word, superficial Christians are incapable of taking more than short doses of the spiritual medicine that is needed to cure their sin-sick soul. The meat of the word makes them gag. They reject moral principles for mere platitudes that make them feel at ease, and they view any sermon that runs more than fifteen minutes as a waste of time and an imposition on their busy schedule. Once a week, or in some cases only once or twice a year, these nominal believers show up, pay their dues, and punch their spiritual clock at the "church of their choice" that matches their taste in worship style and brand of theology. Easter Sunday and Christmas are the apex of their spiritual activity. Daily cross-bearing means nothing to them.

Second, superficial Christianity produces a church foreign to the blood-bought institution described in the pages of the New Testament. Modern church leaders are quick to provide things that increase numbers but fall short of improving spiritual maturity. The denominations have long sought to entertain rather than enlighten. The church is often viewed as an organization designed to administer spiritual anesthesia; something akin to a haven of rest where the indolent and idle may congregate to escape their moral and spiritual

responsibilities in a world of darkness and doubt. Those with only superficial faith view the church as a safety zone amid the highways of life, a place they can go to avoid the dangers they encounter every day. Similarly, the weak in faith abandon the church like rats, the proverbial rats from a sinking ship. The church is nothing more than an old folk's home where the spiritually defective might find shelter. Someone noted more than a century ago that the church "is not a sort of spiritual Florida to which people can migrate in order to escape the chilling blasts of a cold, unfriendly world." I wish such misconceptions were limited to the denominational world, but so much of this "give me" mentality has infiltrated the Lord's church today. Oh, how I wish it were not so! Having traveled our country seeking funds for the mission work in Indonesia, I've learned that we have spent so much on creature comforts and neglected the Creator's commission to go into all the world. I have visited congregations willing to borrow millions to build an elaborate building and make long-term commitments to mortgage payments, but unwilling to commit to mission endeavors for more than a year at a time. One wonders if we have not been the victims of superficial Christianity.

Third, superficial Christianity will not save. I am writing to an audience who knows (or at least should know) the demands from our Father and His Son. "*...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul*" (Matt. 16:24-26)? "*So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:33). "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*" (Matt. 6:24).

Superficial Christianity is the antonym of genuine faith. It is confined to convenience and comfort. Seldom is there a call for real sacrifice. Suppers, sales, and entertainment are how people are brought into the church, and through more exciting, more numerous programs, they are tricked into believing they are making sacrifices and living the kind of life God wants them to live. No wonder the church has lost its influence in a world that seems to be overrun with evil and ungodliness. The Gospel is no longer considered the power unto salvation, but sensationalism. Some churches are indeed sensational, with Broadway-style productions and glitter and glamour that thrill men, but they do not offer what it takes to save men's souls. In this, they have long ago compromised.

God help us return to His great wisdom and build churches that seek and save the lost rather than serve and satisfy the masses. Anything else is only superficial Christianity.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 10/25
Chapters Read: 342
B.C.: 31
Worship: 69
Daily Bible Readers: 13
Wednesday: 30

Family News and Notes

Steven Guy, minister for the Myrtle Beach congregation, had a stroke. **Claire Lovelace,** a teacher at the School of Hope, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Rob Sparks' close friend, **Steve Stanley**, has prostate cancer. Jennifer's coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles; she is facing surgery for cancer. Please pray for **Nikki Inman** regarding her liver and an employment opportunity. Also, her dear friend in Scottsboro, AL, Jill Russell, needs prayer regarding her medical situation. **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. **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. **Rick and Robin Caldwell** need our prayers.

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

Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7
P 1405-08	P 1408-11	P 1411-15	P 1415-19	P 1419-22	P 1422-26	P 1426-30

Events

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

Silver Linings: Nov 20th. 11am. Lunch is provided

Prayer Service: Wednesday evening, Nov 25th, in Langston Hall. Men, if you plan to attend, please let Brother Byran know.

1.