



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

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<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

Vol. 38, No. 15

April 21, 2024

Helping People to Become Christians

The greatest achievement on Earth is becoming a child of God – a Christian! Faithful obedience until death will bring us a crown of life; therefore, we must strive to work out our "own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). God desires and commands us to reach all the lost and dying people and shine as lights in a "crooked and perverse generation" (Phil. 2:15; Matt. 28:19-20). It is imperative for all Christians to carry out the great commission for those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Master.

Being evangelistic is not only a charge, but it is also a privilege and an honor, since the one for whom we labor was evangelistic himself. Jesus Christ had a specific mission on Earth: "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Jesus is not only worthy of imitation, he expects us to do that (John 13:15) by having a strong bond with the Heavenly Father.

Having a healthy relationship with God is imperative, for when our love for God is strong, then our drive to win lost souls will be as well (Prov. 11:30). Reaching souls to save is a very serious business that we are in together with the Lord. Let us not duck this

responsibility and let us not hand it off to other people. Let us rise instead to the challenge and grow closer to the Lord! To enhance and better our relationship with God we must:

- Properly understand all things involved in that relationship (Psa. 100:1-5).
- Recognize and humbly submit to Jesus' authority (Matt. 17:5; Col. 1:18; Heb. 1:1-3).
- Desire to know Christ more intimately and intellectually (Phil. 3:9-11; Gal. 2:20).
- Have an active and strong prayer life (Eph. 3:14; Col. 4:3).
- Have the proper respect and reliance on God's word (Heb. 4:12; John 12:47-48; 2 Tim. 2:15; Psa. 119:105).

These characteristics and attitudes will help us to appreciate God and to strengthen our efforts to teach the world how to become New Testament Christians, as God intends. Having a genuine concern for souls is vitally important to God, and it must become to us as well. Authentic love for lost souls must be developed in all the followers of Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Eph. 6:1-4; Matt. 10:27-31; 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 1:3-7). We must always be ready to give an answer about our faith and we must be willing to step out of our comfort zones by courageously affirming that:

- All need to obey the gospel of Jesus the Christ (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-9).
- All need to separate themselves from the sinful ways of the world (2 Cor. 6:14-18).
- All need repentance of wrongdoing and a change of heart in order to become a disciple of Jesus (Acts 17:30).
- All need to learn and accept the uniqueness of the one church established by Jesus (Eph. 4:4-6).
- All need to be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10) because discipleship to Christ is for life.
- All need to live wholly committed to Christ (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:9-11).
- All need to look forward to Jesus' return and the final home in Heaven (Titus 2:13).

God desires a personal relationship with all people. He expects all Christians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12). He also desires all people to serve him and not wait until a more convenient time (Acts 24:25). Let us bring the world to Christ! Resolve in your hearts to help the world become Christian!

Whose Servant Are You?

Most people do not realize that they are not in control of their lives. They are actually the servants of something. While we think we are making our own decisions, we are actually being controlled by another.

Romans 6:16-18 shows us the two that will have control of us – a control which we allow to happen in our lives. We can either be the servants of God or the servants of sin. Either way, one or the other directs our lives.

If we are not serving God, then we are serving sin. The end result of each decision is also seen. Those who become the servants of God will become obedient unto righteousness. Those who become the servants of sin will make a choice that will lead to their spiritual death. Yet, even knowing this, most people will make the choice that leads to death (Matthew 7.13, 14). Foolish, but true!

What changed those who were the servants of sin into servants of righteousness? What did they do to avoid the penalty of spiritual death (Romans 1:16)?

Two things must be noted. (1) They obeyed the word of God. Therefore, while we must hear the word and obey it, we must also teach the word of God (and only the word of God) so that others may obey it. (2) They had a change of heart. Romans 12:1-2 shows there is to be a renewing of the mind that will bring about our transformation. Philippians 2:5 teaches us to have the mind of Christ, and Galatians 2:20 shows a different person living within us. This is not an emotional response to a message but a logical response.

Whose servant are you? Every person on Earth is either a servant of God or a servant of sin. The one leads to righteousness; the other to death. Why would anyone choose death?

What Shall the Harvest Be?

This Fall's harvest will be determined at the time of sowing. Like produces like, and every seed after its kind. Once the seed has been sown, we know what kind of harvest to expect. God's spiritual laws are just as immutable. Jesus asked, "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles" (Matt. 7:16)? Your spiritual behavior will determine your eternal destiny. "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7). What are you sowing for eternity?

Rainy Days

The bright, cheerful, peaceful times of our lives are to be treasured highly. At times like these, everything seems to fall into place and we are glad to be alive. But if we think this feeling will last, we are just kidding ourselves, because the rain must fall on everyone. There are peaks and valleys in our emotional make-up and it is when we are in the valleys that we are tested.

Our rainy days take many forms. There might be bitter disappointment in marriage, failure in rearing children, emotional depression, bad health, the death of a loved one. Sometimes we feel that no one cares or understands our problems.

When these times occur, we are to fight against the darkness and gloom. We need to reach out to someone who will understand and help us to deal with emotional pain before it takes us over. Through prayer and Bible study, we reach out to our Heavenly Father. In the Bible we read of Job, Christ, the apostle Paul, and others whose lives were very difficult. These were without question some of the greatest men the world has ever known, yet they suffered as we do. Their suffering gave them strength to reach out to others, especially the sick, poor, crippled, blind, and less fortunate.

In order to be Christ-like, it is necessary that we become caring, and generous toward others. How can we understand the suffering of others unless we have suffered? Rainy days must come if we are to mature as children of God.

The Tragedy of Idleness

Rome's victorious legions, left behind to rule a defeated Spain, built an aqueduct to Segovia in A.D. 109. And for 1800 years - sixty generations - that aqueduct carried sparkling water to hot and dusty Segovians.

About the turn of the twentieth century, thoughtful Spaniards decided that the aqueduct should be preserved for posterity, and so should be relieved of its age-old labor. They laid modern pipelines and stopped the flow that for years had gushed and gurgled in the aqueduct. Shortly thereafter, the aqueduct began to fall apart! The blazing sun dried out the mortar and made it crumble. Its stones sagged and fell, and soon it lay in ruins.

What ages of service could not destroy, idleness soon disintegrated. The moral of the story is this: Idleness will do the same for people. Life-long service for your fellowman and God can never wear you out, but just start to be idle and the decay sets in.