



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

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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.

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Do You Lack Determination?

"Determination is doing what needs to be done even when you don't feel like doing it." -- Unknown

Merriam-Webster defines determination as, "the act of deciding definitely and firmly." The online dictionary says, "firmness of purpose; resoluteness." For example, Paul wrote the church at Corinth and stated, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

Perhaps the greatest example of determination came from our Lord and Savior. "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Notice it says He "steadfastly set His face." That phrase, "steadfastly set," is from a Greek word that means to turn resolutely in a certain direction. It is a strong declaration of our Lord's determination to complete His Father's will. Jesus knew what it meant if He were to go to Jerusalem, but He was determined to complete His mission.

The church today has far too many that vacillate, knowing what needs to be done, but they lack the resolve and fortitude to do it. A

good example is the Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ... " (Matt. 28:19-20). Even though that charge was given in the first century, as followers of our Lord, we seek to obey His command today.

If the Lord faced Jerusalem with the lack of resolve we see today in the church, it is scary to realize He likely would not have faced the cross. And without His sacrifice upon that cross, we would be lost!

In truth, we often lack the determination, the grit, the fortitude to do His will. My hope and prayer is that you will find within yourself the fight and determination to do what must be done.

It is scary to contemplate the vast number of souls who will never see Heaven. And what a shame it is, if in our weakness and lack of determination, they never hear the truth from us.

The Beauty of Rebirth

My grandmother loved to garden, and tulips were one of her favorites. Since they bloomed early in spring, she got really excited for the growing year ahead as those tulips burst forth in beauty and color. She didn't seem to give much concern over the forgotten dead stalks of the previous winter but took joy in rebirth as the new season blossomed.

Another spring is upon us. As the flora comes alive and I remember her enthusiasm for God's amazing creation, I also am drawn to the mighty power of God in recreating the human spirit.

The scriptures teach, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When we see a new Christian being born (John 3:5; Gal. 3:27), we should not allow our minds to linger too long on the "old man" that was buried (Rom. 6:6). Instead, we should magnify and praise our God who has the power to regenerate the human soul (Titus 3:5). The bright outlook and beautiful spirit that comes up from the waters of baptism is a testament to the God who saves through the blood of His blessed Son Jesus the Christ!

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

A Home in Heaven

Will any soul that reaches heaven feel strange there?

All of us are looking forward to a home in heaven. But do we think of heaven as more than a place of "residence" for the faithful? Will it be a home in the true sense of the word? Compare home with house, mansion, palace . . . these are cold, heartless terms without the thought of love in them. The thought of home has proved a shield to virtue; the very name of it has a spell to call back the wanderer from the paths of sin and vice. There is no place on earth we enjoy as much as when present, or miss as much when away, as a true home.

Let us think of heaven first as a place prepared by our Lord; and secondly, that it is prepared for us. What a place that must be! There every purified desire of the heart shall have perpetual satisfaction, and where Christ's own happiness shall be shared by those for whom He died.

In heaven we will be "forever with the Lord." This will make our eternal home one of joy and peace. "Forever with the Lord"; why not now with the Lord? Is not our present life part of forever? If we have been learning His ways and walking in His company here, and are to learn His ways and walk in His company in heaven, why should we not be at home in heaven? For He is not a God of the dead but of the living; for all live unto Him (Luke 20:38).

The occupations of heaven are endless praise, triumph, joy. The possessions of heaven are infinite glory, riches, knowledge. The character of heaven is perfect love, holiness, peace.

Blessed are they that are homesick, for they shall come at last to the Father's house.

Three Facts

There are three facts which, when accepted, will keep one's life on a proper course. They are: (1) This world is not our home, (2) life is, at the longest, very brief, and (3) only spiritual things are of real importance.

(1) This world is not our home. "Love not the world" (1 John 2:15), "be not conformed to this world," (Romans 12:2), "my kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36) are typical New Testament warnings not to become enamored with, or attached to

this world. We are at best "strangers and pilgrims" (Hebrews 11:13) merely visiting with no provisions for settling in.

(2) Life is, at the longest, brief. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (Job 14:1, 2). Other Biblical phrases such as "a tale that is told" (Psalm 90:9), "swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6), and "as water spilt on the ground" (2 Samuel 14:14) are used to remind us that life is soon over. There is no power, no wealth, no doctor who can avert death. Shakespeare wrote, "By medicine life may be prolonged, yet death will seize the doctor too."

(3) Only spiritual things are of real importance. The drive for money, houses, land, prestige, and power consumes many. How foolish, since this world is not our home and we will be here for such a short time. Marshall Keeble was once given a tour by a very wealthy man. After showing all his great possessions, the man said, "Well, brother Keeble, what do you think?" In his inimitable style, brother Keeble replied, "God's going to burn it all up." "[T]he earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

In view of these three facts, only one exhortation seems appropriate: "Prepare to meet thy God!" (Amos 4:12). Nothing else is nearly so important.

"If at first you don't succeed ..."

Sometimes we don't succeed the second or third time, either. Persistence often pays off. We need to keep trying.

Babe Ruth is known for his 714 home runs. In his career, though, he struck out 1,330 times. That's a lot of failure! He kept going up to the plate after "at bat" failures. He obviously didn't obsess about his failures, worry himself to death, or give up.

The Bible is full of examples of servants of the Lord who failed. Noah got drunk. David committed sexual immorality. Jonah arrogantly disobeyed God. Peter denied the Lord three times, then later had to be publicly rebuked by Paul for his behavior in Antioch. Simon the magician was way out of line when he asked for the right to pass along the Holy Spirit.

Failure is inevitable. It is not "the end of the world," unless we permit it to be. We have to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and try again.