

Cape Coral
Church of Christ
1010 S.W. 20th Avenue
Cape Coral, Florida 33991
(239) 283-4880
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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Who Is Wise?

"*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom*" (James 3:13).

Answers to the question, "Who are the wise?" vary depending upon who you ask. But for the most conclusive answer, God's Word will suffice. In fact, the most definitive answer to the above-cited question can be found in Matthew's Gospel, chapter two. Therein we read of the wise men from the East who came to Jerusalem seeking Jesus after His birth. Once finding Him, they worshiped Him and gave Him precious gifts (Matt. 2:1-12). The actions of these wise men help to answer the proposed question, "Who is wise?"

Those who are wise seek Jesus (Matt. 2:1). These men came seeking the Lord. Wise men today still look upward into the heavens, seeking Him above all else (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2). In addition, they allow the light of His Word to lead them (Psa. 119:105; Prov. 6:23).

Those who are wise tell others about Him (Matt. 2:2-8). As these wise men neared their destination, they heralded His birth and the intent for their coming. Wise men today proclaim Him; that is,

Christ came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again the third day so that man might be saved! That's the Good News, and those who are wise will want to tell others about it (Mark 16:15; Acts 5:20; 18:9).

Those who are wise worship Him (Matt. 2:9-11). Once finding Him, the wise men fell down and worshiped Him, presenting Him with precious gifts. Likewise, wise men today worship Him, giving Him their very best (John 4:24).

Those who are wise heed His warnings (Matt. 2:12). The wise men heeded God's warning and departed to their country another way. Wise men today heed the warnings of God; that is, they do all that God commands, following the path He subscribes for them (Matt. 7:13-24; James 1:21).

Paul, by pen of inspiration, states, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:15-17).

The Need for Tact

"Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves." – Abraham Lincoln

Webster defines tact as, "the ability to do or say things without offending or upsetting other people." The Lord knew of such a need when He sent His disciples out on the limited commission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. "Behold, I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

Many a Christian has been tripped up by this one because they don't know how to present the Gospel. They know what it says and the urgency of convincing one of the need to be a Christian, and to have their sins washed away (Acts 22:16). So in their concern and haste, they sometimes tend to be too blunt. The unfortunate result is that they become like sandpaper, and end up rubbing folks raw. So much so in fact that they drive a person further away instead of drawing them closer to God.

Is there a way to present the truth without being overly offensive? To a degree, that answer would be Yes. The answer is qualified because sin finds the truth offensive. Folks don't like to have it

pointed out that they are lost in their sins, especially when they feel like they are good moral people. But if you present the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), you can certainly make your presentation of the truth more palatable.

Generally speaking, we need to be more "diplomatic" in our presentation of the truth. In no way is this suggesting compromise. That would be wrong and displeasing to God. Our desire is to get through to folks.

Perhaps the best advice one can give is to let God do the speaking. Present His Word and let the word reveal to folks their condition and what they need to do to be saved. Remember that the power is in God's Word (Isa. 55:11; Rom. 1:16). But reveal it in a spirit of love.

No Unimportant People in Christ

So, you think you are a student of the Bible? Let me ask you a question. How many of these Bible characters do you remember? Epaenetus, Amplias, Andronicus, Junia, Urbanus, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion, Narcissus, Persis, Rufus, Julia, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Asyncritus, Patrobas, Phlegon, Hermas, Philololgus, Olympas, Gaius, Erastus, and Quartus?

This is not a copy of the names copied from some obscure genealogical list. They are all mentioned in the New Testament. Paul knew them and likely you some day will meet them in heaven.

We know that some of them used their house as a place of worship. One was the first person Paul converted in Achaia. Some were fellow prisoners and were known by many apostles. Paul described some of them as beloved, fellow workers, approved in Christ, labored much in the Lord, chosen in the Lord, my mother, my host, the treasurer of the city, and a brother.

You might think they are not important, but God, for some reason, wanted us to know them and gave us a record of their names. They are all found in Paul's closing chapter to the church in Rome. They are all on another list found in another place where their names are recorded in heaven (see Heb. 12:23). You some day will meet them in heaven!

If you sometimes feel that your presence in the kingdom is so insignificant, you are wrong. These were real people who impacted in some way the lives of other Christians. You are just like them for

you to impact the lives of others. It is not just those important church leaders whose names are widely known that matter. We must never overlook those who are not known, for Jesus spoke of those who were the least in the kingdom and was so vitally aware of what happened in their lives. The doors of heaven open and close on how we treat the least in the kingdom, for our attitude toward them shows our attitude toward the Savior. The Lord said, "As often as you did it unto them, you did it unto Me" (Matt. 25:40).

We may feel that because we are not visible in some public way in the church that we do not matter. He sees us and is aware of every "cup of cold water" we give to others (Matt. 10:42). Your worth is not determined by doing great deeds like noble people. It is determined by the unrecognized, "insignificant" deeds.

So, live your life realizing that you serve Him, and He gives you opportunities to bring glory to Him in faithfully serving by doing "insignificant" service. God does not just see the great deeds of those wellknown. He sees you and your name is recorded above. There are no names on that list that are not important to Him. Your name is important to the Lord.

Twenty-Four Years in the First Grade

We live in an age of education. Even retired people go to college. With all the emphasis on education, we need to re-emphasize Bible study. People spend a great portion of life preparing for a profession in this world, which at best will be used for less than a century, and then spend little time preparing to live for an eternity.

It would take twenty-four years to complete the first grade if public schools met only as often as Sunday Bible School (if no classes were missed). Suppose one came to class only half of the time – forty-eight years in the first grade!

At the same time, if a person spends twenty minutes a day on a given subject for a period of twenty years, he can become an authority in that field. Think what twenty minutes a day over twenty years would mean in Bible knowledge. Are you a spiritual first-grader? See you in Bible class!

"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).