



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.

Vol. 39, No. 23

June 8, 2025

Self-control

If I hear one more person say, "I know it was wrong, but I couldn't help myself," I think I'll be sick. Contrary to popular belief, we do not have to be slaves to our passions. We can practice self-control, restraint, and self-discipline.

God's Word offers the following promise: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). It is not necessary to surrender. The devil doesn't have the upper hand unless we give in to him.

Peter admonishes, "Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love" (2 Peter 1:5-7). He went on to promise, "If you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is

nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins" (2 Peter 1:8-9).

These are not optional matters. Special attention should be given to the fact that self-control is included in the list. Without it, we become slaves to our own wants and desires. When that happens, the devil takes control. Our lives are ruined. Society suffers.

What this nation needs is a good old-fashioned dose of self-control. Abstinence is not a dirty word. Restraint and self-control are essential. The man in the pulpit, the person in the pew, the politician, the policeman, and even the protester need to learn the fine art of self-control. None of us is exempt.

When we speak of self-control, what we are advocating is a life governed by the Word of God. It means that we put God in charge. It requires that his will come before our own. There are only two choices (Matthew 6:24). Will it be Christ or Satan? A life of self-indulgence is a choice for Satan. A life of self-control is a choice for Christ. Which have you chosen?

This Really Happened!

On Sunday, March 25, 1979, a family placed membership at one of the churches of Christ in Arkansas. This isn't significant news at all. In fact, we probably visualize three or four people walking down the aisle at the singing of the invitation song, sitting down on the front row, putting their names on a card, then checking the little box in front of "To Place Membership." They may have done that, but the significant thing is that they did more than that. They handed the elders – no, not a letter of recommendation, but their own letter. It read:

We are asking to commit the welfare of our souls to your care. Although the weakness of the flesh often betrays us, the prime objective of our lives is obtaining salvation for ourselves, our children, and our fellow man. We therefore ask with all sincerity that you help us in every way possible to be successful in this endeavor. Besides spiritual food, encouragement, and fellowship, we fully expect that the help you give might well take the form of numerous requests to serve, instruct, correct, and if necessary, even discipline. With this in mind, we ask that when and if either of us responds in a negative fashion to a request or fails to measure up in a given task, that you not write us off, but help us grow and as soon as possible try us again. We view membership in this

congregation as an obligation to be subject to its eldership, to be helpful and encouraging to all its members, and to take an active part in its work. We, therefore, state our intentions to give freely of our time, our talents, and our money in order to fulfill that obligation.

This really happened! And it should still be happening throughout our brotherhood today!

How Would You Answer?

A young boy asked his dad what a Christian was. The father replied in grand fashion, "A Christian is a person who loves and obeys God. He loves his friends and neighbors. He expresses his appreciation for them. He even loves his enemies and prays for them that they might be blessed. He is kind, he is considerate, and he's gentle and courteous in his speech and is unselfish toward others. He prays often, he worships regularly. And he lives a life that is pure and holy so that all people around him know that he is a Christian through and through." The little boy thought for a minute or two and asked, "Daddy, have I ever seen one?" How would you answer that question?

Some would have lived the Christian life in such a way that their child might already know the answer. But what about the person who calls himself a Christian but doesn't worship regularly? What about the one who calls himself a Christian but lives like "a devil?" What about the one who mistreats his family and selfishly fulfills his own wants and needs with little regard to his family?

Most who will read this will already be Christians and will know what the answer should be. What if you aren't a Christian? Would you know how to describe a Christian accurately, according to the Bible? If you aren't a Christian, and want to know more about them and even how to become one, why don't you start worshiping with us and studying the Bible with us? What do you say? Why not answer, "Yes?"

Worry and Anxiety

Mark Twain said, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened."

Jesus said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). Isn't Jesus telling us not to borrow

tomorrow's troubles? Isn't he telling us to live one day at a time? There are enough problems and perplexities facing us today. Live today. Solve today's problems as they arise and trust in God for leadership and guidance.

A famous organization that works with alcoholics proceeds on the motto: "One day at a time." They tell a drunkard that he doesn't have to plan how he will abstain tomorrow and through all the days ahead ... that he must say to himself, "With the help of the Almighty God, I shall live this day without taking a drink." He is to live one day at a time.

Some say they do not want to become Christians because they're afraid they can't hold out faithfully to the end. They refuse to make a start because they can't see all the way. They should go as far as they can see and trust in God to open the way from there.

"We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). We must serve God today. The Bible says over and over again, "Today is the day of salvation." Let us resolve to do just that. Let us stop fretting and losing sleep over difficulties that never happen.

Finding the Right Guide

Touring Mammoth Cave is an activity I thoroughly enjoy. Over the years, I've toured the beautiful underground caverns on several occasions with the aid of a tour guide. But without the right guide, a Mammoth Cave adventure could easily go from terrific to terrifying.

As with cave tours, there is a great need for the right guide in the spiritual realm. There is a road that leads to heaven, but without the proper guide it cannot be traveled. On his own, man will never find the way. "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). It is the "fool" who "trusts in his own heart" and not in God (Proverbs 28:26). Oh that more souls would trust in the Lord!

Jesus has offered to guide us, but we must be willing to submit to His lead. To Thomas, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Yes, Jesus is "THE" way. He is the only way. It is either through Him that we go to the Father or not at all.

What is your attitude? Do you say with Samuel, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9)? Are you ready to heed the word of God? Don't follow after your own feelings, human creeds, or misleading religious leaders. By all means find the right guide.