



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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We Can Be Sure

"Once upon a time in a land far, far away..." may be an appropriate introduction to a fairy tale, but not to the life of Christ. The story of Jesus is not fantasy, and it is not fiction. It is fact! Luke's gospel begins with these words,

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught (Luke 1:14).

I know that Jesus lived, died, and rose the third day. It is not speculation, wishful thinking, or blind faith upon which I make that statement, but the facts concerning his life and death! Faith rests on the testimony of eyewitnesses (1 John 1:1-4). Peter stated it plainly when he wrote, "For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

In Paul's defense of Christianity before Agrippa, regarding the death and resurrection of Christ, he said, "This thing was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26). His ministry had been public, his miracles open to close scrutiny, his death a public spectacle, and his resurrection a verifiable act! Not one valid charge can be leveled against the New Testament record. There had been no deception, and no effort was made to exclude the multitudes from a close examination of all that he taught and did. There was no misrepresentation, and no scandal to mar the record. We can have the utmost confidence in the biblical narrative.

Will we accept the facts? There is not one valid reason for a man to reject the truthfulness of the Bible concerning Christ, or any other matter. "I know whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). Do you?

Making Things Right

In Numbers 5:5-7, we read the following,

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel: When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty, then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged.

In the 1970's, world-famous psychiatrist, Karl Menninger, wrote a book titled, *Whatever Became of Sin?* In this book he discussed how moral relativism has basically made everything acceptable and nothing forbidden. He foresaw a day when all wrong-doing would be rationalized with a modified vocabulary and individual accountability would become a thing of the past. I believe that Dr. Menninger very accurately foretold the current attitudes toward sin and wrongdoing.

God does not countenance any excuses for sin. All sin is ultimately an offense against God, and as such, it must be confessed and atonement for the sin must be provided. God Himself has lovingly, graciously, and mercifully provided an atoning sacrifice for our sins through the Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus said in Matthew 26:28 (NKJV), "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV), "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." God has provided the atoning sacrifice for our sins, it is now our responsibility to confess our sin. To confess our

sins means to own-up to our guilt, to admit what we have done, and to admit that what we have done is wrong. Often a person may admit to a thing without truly confessing it. If a person is caught red-handed, it is hard for him to deny what he has done, but to truly confess sin is to admit that what was done is wrong and that one is wrong for having done it.

We must reform our thinking away from the current phobia of accountability and be willing to confess that we are sinners and in need of God's forgiveness. John wrote in 1 John 1:9-10 (NKJV), "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

The Paradox of the Cross

The word "paradox" is defined as something that possesses seemingly contradictory qualities. With this definition in mind, the cross of Calvary is one of the greatest paradoxes of all. The events that took place on the cross of Christ saddens us as well as gives us joy. The cross of Christ was the most tragic event in the history of the world, yet it was also the most glorious event that ever happened.

The cross was the saddest event that man ever witnessed, yet it gives mankind the great joy and happiness. Christ's death on the cross was Satan's greatest victory, and yet is also Satan's greatest defeat. The cross of Christ brought shame upon humanity, but it also brought glory and honor to humanity. From the blood that was shed on Calvary, we can see just how much God hates sin. Yet that shed blood also allows us to see just how much God loves the sinner. The cross of Calvary brought death to the One who hung on it, yet today, it brings life to the one who clings to it. The cross was a cruel instrument used to take life, but it gave life. On the cross, Jesus won by losing, and He overcame by surrendering.

Certainly, all would agree that the cross stands as an interesting paradox. But the cross is more than just an interesting paradox, it is the power of God to save the world. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Although the cross has become a popular symbol today, a beautiful golden piece of jewelry, let us not forget its story. All alone, forsaken by His friends, our Savior in agony died on that cross for us.

Because of the great love that God has so freely expressed toward us, should we not do our very best to love Him in return (1 John 4:19)? Jesus told us how to express that love when He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments ... You are my friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 14:15; 15:14).

Let's familiarize ourselves with the commandments of Christ so we may show our love to God for all He has done for us.

How Can a Man Be Righteous?

Bildad, one of Job's friends, asked a penetrating question: "How then can a man be righteous before God?" Of course, we know that no man can be righteous before God by his own works or merit. If a man is to be righteous, he must be made so by God. This the Father does through the Son. Through the Son we are justified. By the Son's blood we have redemption.

Some tell us that man has absolutely no responsibility in his salvation. If this be true, man would not even be required to have faith. However, we know that without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). Jesus plainly taught that one must do the will of the Father, else he would not inherit the kingdom of God. He also taught that one must hear and do His words if he would build upon the rock.

Man's doctrines, opinions, and perversions do not make one righteous, nor does God make one righteous who abides in those doctrines and opinions. However, obeying from the heart the Word of God does make one righteous. Which are you doing?

Don't Be Afraid to Fail

We've failed many times, although we may not remember. We fell down the first time we tried to walk. We probably almost drowned the first time we tried to swim. Did we hit the ball the first time we swung a bat? Heavy hitters, those who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs. R. H. Macy failed seven times before his New York store caught on. English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books.

Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.