



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.

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Are You Weary?

A good friend's needlepoint plaque shows a woman who has obviously been cleaning house all day; her hair is a mess, her clothes are dirty, and in her hands are a mop, a bucket, and several other cleaning utensils. Underneath the picture it reads, "Deary is Weary." Most of us have felt that way at times. Surely there have been times when personal troubles, church troubles, or someone else's troubles have made you weary. Here are some thoughts from the Bible about weariness that may help.

Believe that other good people have been that way. Jeremiah was hounded by his wicked brethren about teaching God's truth so much that he was ready to quit preaching. But when he tried to not speak, we read that he became "weary with forbearing" (Jeremiah 20:9). Paul tells us of his experiences in serving the Lord: and says that he had been "in weariness and painfulness . . ." (2 Corinthians 11:27). The greatest of all examples: Jesus, was extremely tired from his teaching and travels (John 4:6). It is no disgrace to admit the limitations of our endurance and energies.

But be careful of what it is that makes you tired. Running from his wrongs made Sisera tired, and thus vulnerable to a woman with a

hammer (Judges 4:21). Israel had become weary of serving God and doing right. Isaiah says that the Lord told them, "But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel" (Isaiah 43:22). This attitude was surely what Paul was warning against when he said, "And let us not be weary in well doing" (Galatians 6:9a). On the other hand, hard work should make us tired. Solomon observed, "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much" (Ecclesiastes 5:12). His sleep is sweet because his body is tired. Fighting against evil can tire us. Eleazar the son of Dodo, fought against the Philistines for so long that his hand cramped and "clave unto the sword" (2 Samuel 23:10). Where would the Lord's church be today if faithful saints would stand against evil and error with such strength and stamina?

Beware of wearying God. When Israel showed by their actions that they were weary of God, then God responds by saying, "Thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities" (Isaiah 43:24). In Isaiah 1:14 He tells them that it made Him weary to bear their hypocritical worship. It is spiritual suicide to weary the God who cannot be wearied by what is right (Isaiah 40:28), the God who sacrificed his own Son for our sins (John 3:16), the God who knows "how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the just unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2 Peter 2:9).

Be sure that there is a rest for God's weary people, not for the wicked. God promised Moab that they would find no rest from the burden he would place upon them (Isaiah 16:12). Impenitent Israel likewise could find no relief (Lamentations 1:3). But faithful servants of the Lord are encouraged to "Labor therefore to enter into that rest ..." (Hebrews 4:11). Surely, the place which Jesus has gone to prepare for us is a place of rest (John 14:1-3). Read the words of Isaiah 40:28-30, and see if there is not good reason to come back to faithfulness in the service of God.

Who Is Your Authority?

Unless we all agree on the proper authority for our religious teaching, there can never be unity like God commands (1 Cor. 1:10). One man proves his doctrine by the writings of Joseph Smith, another follows the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, the third accepts the Watchtower publications, while yet another believes the Pope has final authority. Certainly division is inevitable if we follow the ideas of uninspired men. If you ask men for a reason for their practice (1 Peter 3:15) they merely say, "That's what my church manual (discipline, catechism, prayer book,

confession) says." If you show by the Scriptures that their doctrine is wrong, they reply, "I'll have to ask my preacher (or priest) about that and see what he says."

We must have a common standard of authority. Can you imagine the confusion we would have without a standard in weights and measures, or a standard time? But God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33) and He didn't start all of the conflicting doctrines or religious sects. He gave all authority, both in heaven and earth, to Christ (Matt. 28:18). We can't even follow the commandments given by Moses, for Christ's law replaced it (Matt. 17:1-5; Col. 3:14-16), and Moses said that when Christ came, we should hear Him in everything (Acts 3:22). In this age God has spoken through His Son (Heb. 1:2) and in everything Christ has preeminence (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23).

Christ sent the apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, to teach all things whatsoever He had commanded (Matt. 28:20). He gave them a memory of "All that I said" and taught them "all things" (John 14:26). The Spirit guided them into all truth (John 16:13). Even the apostles taught the doctrine of Christ, and whosoever goeth onward and "abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God" (2 John 9). Even if an apostle or an angel from heaven brought us a different teaching, "let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8). The inspired Scriptures contain all truth, the full gospel, the perfect law, and everything we need to make us complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25).

Words

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that a Christian has the continual ministry of "holding one's tongue." How important is a bridled tongue? James wrote: "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

Although only air in motion manufactured into sounds, words have tremendous power. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness" (Proverbs 15:1, 2). Misspoken words have started wars, caused murders, produced broken homes, and filled lives with fear and anxiety. Often the deepest wounds are ill spoken words which cut to the heart of the hearer.

On the other hand, the right word at the right time can be a positive force for good. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of

silver" (Proverbs 25:11). We decide whether our words will be caustic and cutting, or kind and caring. For Christians that decision has been made for us. Paul wrote: "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each other" (Colossians 4:6).

Words should not thoughtlessly flow from our lips. We should be swift to hear and slow to speak (James 1:19). True children of God do not slander, use filthy language, or lie. In a positive way, our speech should be kind, pure, and true. Before we say anything we should ask ourselves three questions. Is it kind? Is it pure? Is it true? If we can't answer yes to all three questions, we should be silent. If we are not going to say the right thing, we would be better off saying nothing!

You Never Know

There is, at times, a temptation to think that my decisions impact only my future. In other words, if I make good choices or bad, only I will enjoy the rewards or suffer the consequences. However, all of us, especially fathers and mothers, need to realize that someone may be watching our every move to help him decide how he should act.

Batsell Barrett Baxter once wrote: "I remember several years ago, on a Sunday morning after I had preached a sermon, I came down from the pulpit, as my custom was, and sat on the front row while the Lord's supper was being served. There was a little boy, pre-school age, on that front row, who inched over toward me until he sat very close beside me. Then, he leaned close to my ear and said, 'I wish I was you.' Nobody ever said that before and nobody since. Just a little boy whose name I did not even know. I knew his family. I had seen him a few times, but I did not even know his name. But he had heard me preach about Christ, and he had seen me stand in front of the congregation. It was my impact as a preacher, not as an individual, that had impressed him so deeply. His statement left an imprint on me. I cannot afford to disappoint that little boy, just as you cannot afford to disappoint the people who look to you. Oh, if we could only feel the power of the influence that we wield upon the lives of others. Oh, how much easier it would be for us to be what God wants us to be!"

It is important for me to ask myself, "What would Jesus do?" (1 Peter 2:21), before I take any action, not just for my own sake, but also for those who may be watching me. After all, you never know who may see you as an example to follow!