



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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Christ and Our Work

Have you ever asked yourself why you work? This question seems appropriate as we celebrate a day to honor the work force (Labor Day). Some say they work to get a paycheck, a pension, paid vacation, health care, etc. Although it surely is the case that we welcome our wages, and delight in all the benefits we are rewarded, something seems to say that perhaps one of the problems in our society today is many are working only for money - nothing more. When a majority of a nation's work force only works for money, and little else, that nation will have a problem in its character. However, when a worker is not only rewarded with money and benefits, but he also has an awareness that his work is significant, important, and contributes both to his relationship with God and with other human beings, he experiences one of life's great privileges.

The biblical view of work is such that, if understood and applied, it will revolutionize the work place. The Bible emphasizes the dignity of work. Paul wrote, "Those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8). "Maintain good works" is rendered "profess honest occupation" in a footnote in one

translation (cf. ASV). The Bible is filled with references to working people. Numerous Old Testament characters were shepherds. Amos was a farmer and a shepherd. Jesus was a carpenter. His disciples were selected from the working class. Luke was a medical doctor. Paul was a tent maker. Cornelius was in the military. Lydia was a businesswoman. There was the jailer at Philippi.

Christianity teaches quality of workmanship. Paul wrote, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Col. 3:25). An unbeliever once said to David Lipscomb, "Show me one good thing Christianity has ever done in the world." Lipscomb responded, "It has given us better hogs." The surprised man asked how this could be. Lipscomb answered that the Bible made better farmers and better farmers made better hogs! Although the world may view its work (and ours) as ordinary and mundane, Christians see their work as serving Jesus Christ (cf. Col. 3:23; 4:1). Nothing honorable is ordinary when one is serving the Christ, whether it be driving a truck, building a house, working at the plant, cleaning house, selling a product, preaching a sermon, typing a letter, pumping gas, washing dishes, etc. This principle, when applied, enables one to look beyond things that may be unpleasant and focus on the final reward from the greatest Boss of all - the Lord. "For you serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:24).

Can You Recite the Lord's Prayer?

Two men were drinking together when the topic of conversation finally came around to religion. One man turned to his friend and challenged, "I bet you don't even know the Lord's Prayer."

"Wait a minute," said his friend, "I do too know the Lord's Prayer." So his friend pulled out a \$50 bill and said, "I bet you can't say the Lord's Prayer."

His mate confidently replied: "Now, I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep..."

At that his friend interrupted him. "Here's your money," he said, "I didn't think you knew it."

Sadly, there is great ignorance when it comes to the Bible. I was highly tempted to change the setting of that story I read somewhere from being in a bar to some other place less offensive to Christians who have their head on straight. Frankly, I have very little interest

what happens in a bar. However, it is also sadly true that the same story could be set in many other places these days, could it not? A Starbucks? A college dorm? The YMCA? Some Christian homes?

Not the drinking, hopefully – but the Biblical ignorance. We find ourselves in a culture awash in it. We have a big task, not only teaching our own, but trying to restore some semblance of a knowledge of the Word of God to our world.

As always, it starts with me. And you. Are we truly in the Word, all the time? We have more access to it in more ways than ever before. What excuse do we have for not knowing the Words of Life?

And then, it goes to my family. As a family, is the Word central in our homes, not only as a text to be read but as a guide for our lives?

And then, of course, in the church. The church must be devoted to the Word of Christ. It must read and study and teach and proclaim it faithfully. And it must offer its truths to the world regularly, without apology.

May we never take the Bible for granted.

Baptism Now Saves Us

Sin is a person's greatest problem. Salvation is a person's greatest need. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Men crucified Him, God raised Him up! Why? So that we might be saved. One of the messages of Peter, according to 1 Peter 3:21, is the message of the above title: "Baptism now saves us." Peter uses the word "now" in contrast to a previous time. When was that time? "When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah" (1 Peter 3:20). What relation does baptism and our salvation "now" have to do in relation to "the days of Noah"? He says, "eight souls were saved by water," and the fact that "baptism doth also now save us" is "the like figure" corresponding to the salvation of Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives.

Perhaps, you are thinking: "The water did not save Noah's family! The ark did!" Consider with me how the water saved those eight souls and how being immersed in water "now" saves us. Noah and his family were living in a world where "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his

heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Had Noah not “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8), he would have remained in that world of unrighteousness until God destroyed it. Rather, God had a plan of redemption for Noah and his family. God designed the plan, communicated the plan, and Noah and his family obeyed the plan.

God’s plan was to purge or cleanse the earth of evil in the days of Noah. “Now,” God has designed a plan, He has communicated the plan, and we are to obey the plan if we desire to be cleansed from the evil of this world. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Baptism, immersion in water, is “not the putting away of the filth of the flesh” (1 Peter 3:21). Rather, it is the point at which you “wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16).

How important is baptism to you? Peter says, “baptism now saves us.” Have you been immersed in water in order to be cleansed from your sins? To God be the glory.

God Wants You to Have Joy

This truth is lost on some preachers and other church-goers. Oliver Wendell Holmes was a member of the U.S. Supreme Court for thirty years. His mind, wit, and work earned him the unofficial title of “the greatest justice since John Marshall.” At one point in his life, Justice Holmes explained his choice of a career by saying: “I might have entered the ministry if certain clergy men I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers.”

They have forgotten such passages as ...

Psalm 21:6 which says: “Surely you have granted (us) unending blessings and made (us) glad with the joy of your presence.”

Or ... Psalm 28:7 – “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”

Or ... Romans 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Yes, God wants you to have true, blessed joy in your life!