



Cape Coral Church of Christ

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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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Tomorrow

One of the most surprising statements in the Bible comes from the mouth of Pharaoh. It was during the ten plagues that God brought upon Egypt. Pharaoh could take no more, so he asked Moses to intercede on his behalf and ask God to remove the plague of frogs. Moses agreed and told Pharaoh to state the time when he wanted him to intercede for him. Then Pharaoh said it: "Tomorrow" (Exodus 8:8-10).

Tomorrow!? Why tomorrow? Why not now? Why spend another night with the frogs? It doesn't make sense. But it makes about as much sense as we sometimes use.

Do you need to apologize to someone? Why wait until tomorrow when you can do it today? Do you need to express thanks to someone? Why wait until tomorrow when you can do it today? Do you need to sever ties with some bad influences in your life? Why wait until tomorrow when you can do it today? Do you need to repent of some sin that you have been concealing? Why wait until tomorrow when you can do it today? Do you need to be baptized into Christ? Why wait until tomorrow when you can do it today?

Pharaoh's response to Moses was foolish and resulted in his suffering needlessly through another night with the frogs. But if we're honest with ourselves, we might have to admit that Pharaoh is not the only one "spending another night with the frogs." Give it some thought!

None Like Him

Some people just naturally stand out from the rest. Consider three individuals the Bible says there was "none like him."

When Israel clamored for a king so they could be like the nations around them, God reluctantly gave them Saul, the son of Kish. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul and asked Israel, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" (1 Samuel 10:1, 24). What was so special about Saul? "When he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward" (10:23). Unfortunately, his fine physique didn't make Saul a good king. He started out well but came to a disastrous end.

Hezekiah, unlike Saul, was renowned not for his good looks, but his godliness. "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among the kings of Judah, nor who were before him" (2 Kings 18:5). Hezekiah had inherited a kingdom mired down in the idolatry and immorality of his father, Ahaz. Despite his youth and regardless of the difficulty, Hezekiah instituted sweeping reforms to bring Judah closer to God.

Even better than Hezekiah was the patriarch Job. God Himself said of him, "There is none like him on the earth" (Job 1:8a). What made him so exceptional? The Lord said he was "a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil" (1:8b). Job's conduct was such that no one could successfully find fault with him. (His friends tried, but failed miserably!) Job's reverence for God led him to shun wickedness.

Christians ought to stand out from the world. We may not have marvelous physiques, nor should that be our concern. Let us trust in the Lord like Hezekiah! Let us strive to be blameless and upright, reverencing God and shunning evil! May God say of us, "There is none like them!"

What Lies Within

The story is told of an old violinist who was very poor, but who brought much joy to others through his playing. Asked to explain why his music evoked a responsive chord in the hearts of his listeners, he lovingly fingered his instrument and commented, "Ah, a great deal of sunshine must have gone into this wood, and what has gone in comes out."

That which is true with a piece of wood is equally true with life, you get back from your life what you invest (Luke 6:38). A person's life will naturally reflect what is invested in it. The poor violinist made a choice not to reflect upon his lack of economic resources, but upon his ability to bring happiness into the lives of others. He did not boast of his ability to play, but of the beauty that God had placed within the wood. His talent was not so much a musician, but an artist who was able to bring back to the surface the beauty that lies deep within.

Too much of the time people go through life striving to make things happen, and never take the time to look deep within their soul to see the real beauty. Lives are taken for granted because a person is forced into a mold that is unnatural for them. That is as frustrating as trying to write left-handed when by nature you are right-handed. It just does not feel right.

So, look within a person and see the natural beauty that God has placed within and let that beauty shine!

You Will Never Walk Alone

The prophet Elijah was at a low point. His victory at Mount Carmel turned into his being on the run for his life. He was despondent, depressed, and ready to give up. When God asked him what he was doing, his response was telling. "I tried," he exclaimed, "but no one is listening, they all are after me, I am alone."

There is nothing worse than being alone and sad. Yet Elijah wasn't. God proclaimed to him, "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him." He pointed him to Elisha, the man that would walk beside him for the rest of his journey. He told him how others were in place that would right the wrongs that were done. As dire as his situation seemed, God assured him he was not alone.

If a great man like Elijah could struggle when he felt alone and abandoned, do we not think it can happen to us and those around us as well? There will be sad times in our lives, but that does not mean we have to face them alone. And we don't have to let others face them alone!

God is never far away, and his people should not be either. Some are struggling right now, let's make sure they don't have to do it alone.

Live One Day at a Time

Many live frustrated lives because they are trying to manage two days at a time. One of those days is yesterday. Some people are glad yesterday is gone because of broken health and unfulfilled dreams. However most of us view yesterday wistfully. We talk of the good old days; or we want yesterday back because we messed it up. We say that we will do better next time, but so many big things never get a next time.

The other day we try to manage is tomorrow. If we know God as Creator, loving Father, and Lord, then worrying is absurd. We can focus our lives on him, invest our assets with him and rest assured that "God shall supply all our needs according to his riches of glory in Christ". Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. The sun will rise tomorrow, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise. Until it does, there is nothing we can do about the day, for it is yet unborn.

Today is all you can manage. Can you be agreeable for one day? Or endure pain for twenty-four hours? Surely you can. Put yourself in the middle of God's will and eliminate reminiscing about the past or worrying about the future.



A Profound Thought

Did you ever read something that moved you so much that you just put down the article and said, "That's really the way it is!" The other day, I was reading and found a thought that really hit me this way. I want to share it with you.

"If you don't love, you'll find an excuse. If you do love, you'll find a way."

Isn't that the bottom line with what Jesus has asked us to do? When people are asked to teach, to visit, to help with orphans, or whatever the task, they have two choices. They can do it or refuse. Now I know that there are legitimate reasons why a person would refuse, but most of the time people don't want to give of their time, make the sacrifice, or share themselves.

The next time an opportunity presents itself, the next time you are called on to help teach, visit, or work; the next time you have an idea about something that would help the church grow, remember: "If you don't love, you'll find an excuse. If you do love, you'll find a way."