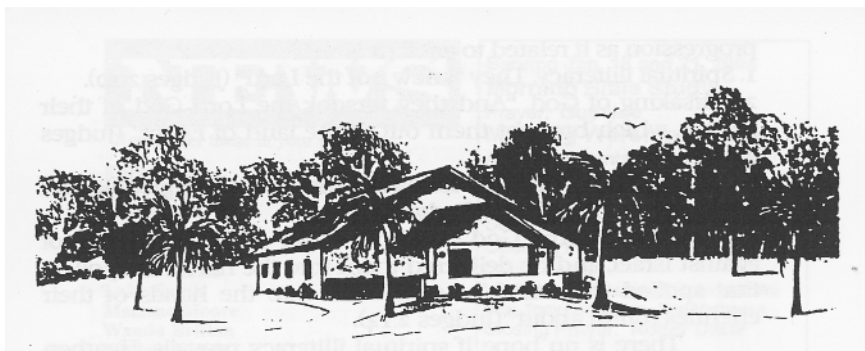




Cape Coral Church of Christ

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.

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Read It, Believe It!

How often do you read the Bible? A survey by the American Bible Association found that 57 percent of the people read their Bible four times or less per year. Another survey found that only 19 percent of the people read the Bible on a daily basis. The ABA survey also showed that people between the ages of 18-28 read the Bible even less than older adults. In the ABA survey, 61 percent wish they would read the Bible more often.

I read a bulletin article recently that told of two young people talking about understanding the Bible. One said, "You know, I'm beginning to unravel the mysteries of the Old Testament – I've started reading it"! With the lack of reading and study, it is no wonder that so many don't understand the "mysteries" of the Old Testament – which are not really mysteries when the Bible is studied with an open mind.

It is sad that so many value their own thoughts and beliefs more than they do God's Word. Yet, Jesus said we would all be judged by the Words which He spoke, which came from God (John 12:48). He also said that not all who claim to call on His

name would be saved, but only those who do God's will (Matthew 7:21).

Doesn't this sound a little scary, plowing ahead with life without really digging into Bible study? It should! Friends, we can't rely on what someone tells us about salvation. It is our responsibility to know and do what God has said! The road to eternal life is found in the pages of the holy Bible. Let's read it, study it, and then do what God has commanded.

How High Can You Count?

When 156,000 American, British, and Canadian soldiers landed at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, it was the largest sea borne invasion in history. More than 4,000 Allied soldiers died during that World War II battle. What a high price, and an enormous sacrifice! Most people agree that although the cost was high, the decision American General Dwight D. Eisenhower made to launch the invasion was a noble one, and the goal of defeating the Nazi regime was worth the sacrifice.

Jesus admonishes us to "count the cost" of being His disciple (Luke 14:25-33). In fact, He said, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). How much are you willing to lose for the Lord?

Will You Give Up Family? Jesus certainly loved His mother. Submitting to His parents (Luke 2:51), and later telling John to take care of her after His death (John 19:25-27) are clear evidences of this fact. However, He also placed obedience to the Father's word above family (Luke 8:20-21). Jesus loved God more. Is that too high of a price to pay?

Will You Give Up Self? Jesus was God in the flesh (John 1:1,14), but He lowered Himself and took on the form of a bondservant, coming in the likeness of men (Phil. 2:5-8). He deemed the goal of salvation to be worthy of His sacrifice. His disciples put this example in action themselves (Luke 9:23; 18:28; Phil. 3:3-11) by denying self. Is that too much for us to pay?

Will You Give Up the World? Jesus said He was not of this world (John 8:23), and neither is His kingdom (John 18:36). The cross meant suffering the shame and scorn of the world. The world will treat you this way, as well (John 15:18). If we chose the Lord, we must reject the world (James 4:4). Will you accept the cost?

Born in Sin?

Does Psalm 51:5 teach that babies are born in sin? The New King James Version translates Psalm 51:5, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.” The English Standard Version, American Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, and Revised Standard Version translate this verse almost identically as the NKJV. The King James Version says: “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” In contrast, the New International Version says, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” The Christian Standard Bible says, “Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” The NIV and CSB translations declare explicitly that David was born in sin.

In the KJV, NKJV, ESV, ASV, NASB, and RSV, the prepositional phrases “in iniquity,” and “in sin” are adverbial, modifying the two verbs “was brought forth,” and “conceived” respectively. Interpreted literally, it wasn’t David that sinned, but his mother. Obviously, that isn’t what David is saying. Rather, he is expressing the depth of his guilt after Nathan the prophet confronted him about his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah. That means that this passage must not be understood literally, but figuratively. The NIV and CSB strip this figure away and make the language literal when it is not. David was expressing the depth of his guilt by figuratively extending it to his mother’s conception and birth of him. This is not an objective statement about David’s birth; it is a subjective statement about how David felt about his birth after He sinned. So, this verse teaches that David felt very badly about his sin; it does not teach that babies are born in sin.

Reasons for Rejoicing

Watching or reading the news can be depressing. The focus is on the worst actions of man, often against other men. Focusing on such can result in a sense of helplessness and hopelessness. The Christian, however, has multiple reasons for rejoicing.

God’s children should rejoice in the Father’s love. He sent His Son to die for us while we were sinners (Romans 5:8) “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only

begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9-10). That love permits us to say there is literally nothing that can defeat us (Romans 8:38-39).

Those in Christ can rejoice because we are free from sin. That freedom was achieved when we changed masters by obeying from the heart the pattern of teaching in the Gospel. Those who have repented and have been baptized under Jesus’ authority went down into the water dead in sin. In the watery grave, they were buried with their Lord, coming in contact with the blood He shed in his death. Freedom from sin was achieved and all condemnation was removed (Romans 6:3-4, 16-18; 8:1-2; John 19:31-35).

Those who are part of Christ can rejoice because of their hope. Peter said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5). We are citizens of a heavenly kingdom (Philippians 3:20-21). Though we may be troubled by the evil around us, we can know the Lord is one day coming to take us home (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

We have good reasons to, as Paul said, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).

What Makes a Great Church?

- Not big budgets, but larger hearts;
- Not tall steeples, but lofty visions;
- Not money received, but services rendered;
- Not record-breaking attendance, but God's presence;
- Not frantic motion, but dedicated action;
- Not soft seats, but courageous leadership;
- Not loud talking, but quiet doing;
- Not beautiful clothes, but beautiful lives;
- Not eloquent preachers, but active members;
- Not nice building, but good deeds;
- Not great numbers, but great love for one another.