



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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Spiritual Road Signs

In many ways, the journey of a Christian toward heaven is like a trip on the highway. The Bible often uses the image of the journey to help us understand our walk with God (Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:1-6; Acts 19:9,23). We follow Christ in “the Way.” Like taking a car trip today, there are “road signs” that we can read that will help us as we travel. These road signs are all found in God’s word.

When using GPS, a cellphone app will start by giving you the ultra-simple direction to turn onto the street right in front of your house! Likewise, you can’t get on The Way to heaven without using God’s directions (Rom. 10:17; John 8:24; Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27).

Miles: These signs tell us how far we are from our destination. While we do not know when we are going to die, or when Jesus will return, the Bible does provide us with “road signs” to tell us how we are progressing on our spiritual journey (2 Peter 1:5-11; Gal. 5:22-26).

Speed limit: Just as there are regulations for behavior on the road, so there are on our journey towards heaven. We don’t like authority sometimes, but that does not mean the law does not apply to us (Col. 3:17; John 14:15). Those who do not obey God’s word will be lost (2 Thess. 3:14).

Yield: Sometimes we have to yield to fellow travelers. We are to submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5). When the Bible commands Christians to “be subject to one another” it is simply a reasonable and gracious command to let the other have the right of way and avoid interpersonal head-on collisions.

Exit only: This is the sin lane. If we don’t get out of this lane, we will be off the road to heaven. Observe the Bible’s teachings on sin (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-11). If we find ourselves in an exit only lane, we have to do a U-turn! We can do a U-turn by repenting, like Simon in Acts 8:9-24.

Dead End: You see this sign if you do not get out of the “exit only” lane. Those who refuse to repent of sin, will find themselves in a terrible location (2 Peter 2:20-22). What could be worse than where we started? Where we will end up, if we do not turn around (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:42-48).

Like a trip by car, our spiritual journey is not always pleasant. On the road to spiritual maturity, sometimes we have the tendency to be like the kid in the backseat asking, “Are we there yet?” Remembering what Paul said in Philippians 3:12, we press on along the road. God has left us “road signs” along the way through His mighty word. If we will heed them, we will end up exactly where we want to be (Col. 1:21-23)!

An Exciting Eternity

Do you ever wonder how you can live forever without being bored? One fellow said he didn’t want to live forever because life on earth is so monotonous. His comments reminded me of a college professor’s sneering statement to his class (a class I was in) that he couldn’t think of anything more boring than to spend eternity “sitting on a golden staircase, playing a harp.”

Well, his comments didn’t shake my faith. I believed then, and I believe it more strongly now, that heaven will be a wonderfully exciting place, for I have concluded that the glory and joy of heaven will be found in our relationships, rather than in “golden streets and gates of pearl!” Job, the psalmist David, and John, the apostle, delighted in focusing on being in the presence of God. He will be the primary glory of heaven.

Though heaven will surely include many delightful activities not revealed to us in the Bible, the most wonderful element will be the joy of companionship. Just think, to be in the presence of God, the

Son, the Holy Spirit, the perfected saints of God, the great Bible characters saved by grace—what an exciting prospect! So...let's enjoy heavenly blessings now by deepening our communion with God and our fellowship with believers. Here is one reason for that familiar passage: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Heb. 10:24-25).

Life with a Purpose

Our life upon this earth is of few days and full of trouble. Some days are the best of times; some days are the worst of times. There are moments that look like the spring of hope; others look like the winter of despair. Through it all we need to live a life with purpose and meaning. We all seek happiness as the world crashes about us.

Something to Do. Paul wrote, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). Paul says he was pressing toward the mark. He was pressing on with contentment. He had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content (Phil. 4:11). To be happy in life, we all need something to do; we need a mission to fill. Let us stand for the right and not lose sight of our duty to serve the Lord, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Someone to Love. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). It brings happiness to love God. We are to love the Lord with all our heart. He first loved us and we should return our love. We also need our family and friends to love. To visit with friends and enjoy good times together brings sunshine into our days.

Something to Hope For. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). The hope of heaven keeps us going through sickness, pain, disappointment, suffering, and hardship. In fact, these present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there shall be no more death, sorrow, crying, nor pain. On that fair shore we shall serve the Lord with perfect bliss. There we shall be with and know our loved ones whom we have known in our life (1 Thess. 2:19).

It Is Always "Us."

Who will help the church grow and thrive? God, certainly, but we each help (1 Cor. 3:6-9). Paul states in Rom 12:4, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function."

We each have something to offer the church. There are no talentless people in the church. It is like the fable of "Who Flew the Kite?" "I did," said the sticks. "I did," said the paper. "I did," said the boy. "No, I did," said the wind. But they all flew the kite together. If the sticks had broken, the tail caught in a tree, the paper torn, or the wind had lulled, the kite would have come down. Each had a part to play. The application is clear. We each have work to do in the Kingdom of God. If the work of the Lord is to be a success, then every member of the church must participate.

We have the work of visiting, giving of our time and means, teaching, caring for children, widows, and widowers, helping feed those who need food, and countless other jobs to do to make the church and its work successful. We must all work together and each do what we can to help. It is a matter of teamwork. We all have something we can do to help the church of Christ grow and mature.

The church in the New Testament is never spoken of as "they," "them," or even "I." It is always "us." How are you helping the congregation to grow? God does His part; what about us?

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is, in the eyes of some, esteemed as the greatest of holidays. When one thinks about the idea of Thanksgiving, it is easy to appreciate the holiday as some do - a time of feasting and family gatherings.

Those who are truly thankful, however, are those who were once dead, but are now alive. The Lord spoke to the Jews and said that the hour was coming in which the dead would hear His voice and live (John 5:25). The Lord was not referring to the second coming, for that He does in 5:28-29. The Lord referred to those who heard His voice (orally, and through the written word) and responded to His holy will. They were dead in sin, but applying the truth of God's word to their individual lives, they are now alive spiritually (2 Corinthians 5:17). Those who live, but were once dead, were dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1-10), but now are alive in Christ. This is a time for thanksgiving.