



## **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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## **Jesus Never Quit!**

Jesus did not quit meeting with His disciples because Judas was a thief, nor because Peter was fickle at times. He didn't quit preaching and living right because some of His brethren were unforgiving and unkind. He did not quit His post of leadership because He had in His presence the adulterous woman, a gang of Pharisees, or narrow-minded demon-worshipers. Jesus did not quit.

Have you quit? What is the reason for it? Any reason you might name, Jesus could have given the same. He had every reason to be discouraged. His own disciples were so slow to learn. His enemies were bent on His destruction. But He did not quit. He said: "Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). And when the end of His earthly life was in sight, Jesus said to His Father, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). He did not quit. He finished His task.

When you come to the end of life, will you say, "I finished the work God has given me to do?" Or, will you be compelled to say, "I started, but quit!" Will you stand before the judgment bar of God and admit that you were a quitter? Eternal life is promised to those who endure to the end (Matt. 10:22). There will be no consolation

in the judgment day to point back to your baptism unless you can also point back to a life of faithful endurance.

"Quit" wasn't in Jesus' vocabulary, neither should it be in ours. We need to be like Paul, who in his imitation of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), said, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but 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 3:12-14).

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## Measuring Our Love for God

While there is definitely an emotional component to love, true love is not merely emotion. True love is also a decision. It is a deliberate act of the will. The Bible reveals some measuring sticks by which we can determine whether or not our love for God is as deep as it could be.

**Our love for God is measured by how much we love each other.** "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17). "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments." (1 John 5:1-2). One may proclaim loudly and proudly that he loves God, but if his actions toward other Christians do not show that he seeks their well-being, then he really doesn't love God as he thinks he does.

**Our love for God is measured by how much we hate sin.** "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15). If we are totally captivated by the things of this world, then we really do not love God as we may think. The real measure, however, of how much we hate sin is not our disgust at the sins of others, but rather our level of disgust at the sin we find in ourselves! The exhortation of Psalm

97:10 is simple, but profound in its application, “Hate evil, you who love the LORD!”

**Our love for God is measured by whether or not we obey God.** “But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him” (1 John 2:5). “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). Here is where some who profess to love God actually prove that they do not.

I once studied the Bible with a man who simply refused to accept that he needed to be baptized in order to be saved (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). At one point we read John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” The gentleman avowed his belief in what Jesus said. We coupled that passage with Mark 16:16, where Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved.” It was there that he balked. I posed this question to him, “If Jesus wants you to be baptized and you refuse, then according to John 14:15, do you really love Jesus?” Tragically, he never accepted the implications of his rejection of Jesus’ instructions.

Do you love God?

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## **The Influence of the World**

The late Johnny Ramsey once wrote, “It took one night for Israel to come out of Egypt; but it took forty years to get Egypt out of them.” There is a powerful truth in this, in that we often tend to underestimate the influence of the world. The repeated disobedience of Israel hindered their efforts to enter into the land of promise; a similar malady which effects some Christians today.

When the spies brought back the evil report that there were giants in the promised land, the people were discouraged. The Bible speaks of them weeping all night; and then on the next day, proceeding to murmur against Moses and Aaron. On the heels of this comes the surprising words, “And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt” (Num. 14:1-4).

It seems inconceivable that after four hundred years of slavery, that the children of Israel were so foolish as to cry out in their distress to return to the cruelty of Egyptian bondage. And yet do we not find a similar problem with Christians today? When distress and difficulty comes, some cry to return to “Egypt” (the world today).

The life of a Christian is certainly not an easy one. We have been warned that there is a cost involved in being a disciple of Jesus (Luke

14:25-33). Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). In the Sermon on the Mount, the Master spoke of the difficulty that His followers will face, "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matt. 5:11-12).

So, as we face the difficulties in life, what is the answer? Do we give in and clamor to go back to "Egypt" as some have, or do we turn with a greater resolve to Christ? The influence of the world is strong, telling us that it is easier to abandon your faith. Do you have the resolve to resist?

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## **Sowing Seeds**

One of the things that bring me great joy in life is sowing seeds and watching them grow. One plants the seed in the ground, waters it, and then patiently waits until the tiny green shoots of life appear out of the soil. Then we wait in great anticipation of the beautiful flowers or tasty vegetables that will soon show up.

There are more kinds of planting and of sowing however than that of just flowers or vegetable seeds. The Bible talks about how our words and actions are like sowing seeds. All of us, through what we are saying and doing, are sowing seeds in our own lives and in the lives of others. Parents sow seeds in the lives of their children. These should be seeds of kindness and truth. Elders and preachers sow seeds of truth in the hearts and lives of those in the congregations whom they serve. Each Christian should be sowing the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of those who are willing to hear it.

We don't always know how the seeds which we sow are going to produce. I know that there have been times when I planted seeds and was quite disappointed with the results. In some cases, for some reason, the seeds did not grow at all. Solomon says, "In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that or whether both alike will be good" (Ecclesiastes 11:6 NKJV). In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, Jesus tells us that the growth of the seed sown depends largely upon the condition of the soil in which it is sown. We must, however, not become discouraged. We must commit to the sowing; trust God for the rest. Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV).