



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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Empty Spaces

Empty space gets filled. Have you never noticed this phenomenon when you move into a larger house? You think to yourself “Oh, I’ll have so much room now!” But no – as time goes on, various things encroach upon that space. You thought you were going to have a home office? Joke’s on you when it becomes your wife’s craft storage room. If you have empty space you might want to figure out what you want to do with it fairly quickly, or someone else might make that decision for you.

Jesus once told a story of a man who finally got rid of an evil spirit. However, the departure of the spirit left an empty space. Then the spirit says, “I will return to the house I left.” When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first (Matthew 12:43-45). Empty space gets filled, and often it gets filled with junk – or worse. This man’s problem was that the house was “unoccupied.” If someone else were already there, he would have told the evil spirits to take a hike.

We all have to make decisions about what is going to fill the spaces in our lives. If we don’t make the decision, the decision gets made for

us. So, as for my house, may it be filled with the Lord! If you notice that you have a free half hour in the morning, decide what you'll spend it on. Why not make that a devotional time to start the day off right? I think that would benefit you greatly, but you have to decide to use that space for that purpose. Otherwise something else, perhaps something much less wholesome, will come in to gobble that half hour up. Then your final condition is worse than if you never had that half-hour free to begin with.

If there is junk in your life, clear it out. But don't just leave the space empty. Fill it with what is good. May God fill us with His goodness so there is no room for evil in our lives. May we all decide that empty spaces belong to God.

God Hears My Cry for Mercy

“Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. 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” (Psalms 28:6-7).

In this psalm, David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, commented on why we should thank God. Our Lord is worthy of our praise because he hears our cries for mercy.

Our society is entrenched in the idea of entitlement. We have been taught that we “deserve” things that we do not. I once saw a news report about how our community came to the aid of a little girl who was sick. Funds rolled in to help her get much needed medical treatment and surgery. But the report on the kind acts of our society was ruined by the almost haughty words of the little girl's father. He kept repeating that his daughter “deserved” these donations which, by definition, are undeserved gifts.

We do not deserve the help we get from God. He gives his gifts to undeserving people. He gives his gifts to an undeserving ME. And for those gifts, I should fall to my knees and praise him. My heart should leap for joy, and I should sing praises to his name.

Thank you, Lord, for your mercy, kindness, grace, and steadfast love!

Did Bugs Bunny Corrupt the Scriptures?

If I called you a Nimrod, how would you feel? If you are like most people, you would probably feel insulted. The popular definition for a nimrod is an inept person, an oaf, a moron, an ignoramus. The original

name Nimrod really meant to be a skillful, mighty hunter. Its origin is found in Genesis 10:8-9. “Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.”

How did the mighty hunter become an inept oaf? Well, it’s all Bugs Bunny’s fault.

OK, maybe not all his fault. You see, in the popular cartoon featuring Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, Bugs often times will refer to Elmer Fudd as a “little Nimrod”, a sarcastic reference to the mighty hunter of the Old Testament. The writers might have gotten the joke but the general public didn’t. They assumed, in their ignorance, the word was an insult and began to use it as such and the new meaning took over.

This doesn’t just happen in cartoons, there are numerous examples of people taking Biblical words and concepts and flipping their meaning till the point that more people accept the new definition rather than the Bible one. Words like pastor, grace, and baptism have been corrupted from the biblical meaning to a popular one. Pastors, the Biblical group of overseers, becomes a single preacher (Acts 20:28). Grace is made into a license to sin (Jude 1:4). Baptism has gone from a complete immersive burial in water to pouring or just sprinkling (Colossians 3:12).

Words have meaning. If we change that meaning, we might as well change the word. Don’t fool yourself into thinking you are biblical if you still use a Bible word yet have a different definition than the Bible has. If we truly want to be biblical, we must hunt through the Scripture to see if the things we are taught are really the things that are in Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

When it comes to what the Bible says, we need to be a Nimrod, not a nimrod.

Be of Good Cheer!

Men and women of God, who would not even think of gambling, drinking, or committing some act of fleshly evil, may otherwise be guilty of a sour disposition, with an envious, bitter or negative frame of mind. One may be able to quote scripture, pray fervently, and attain an unblemished attendance record at worship service, yet possess such a critical and negative attitude about life that others actually wish to avoid them!

Are sins of the flesh less harmful than sins of the spirit? The sin of a bad attitude can cripple - if not kill - the progress of the Lord's church.

A weak brother may have the foulest, most profane tongue of anyone in town, and the church leadership would not want him to serve publicly in the worship service - and rightly so! But, if a brother possesses a sour spirit and is known to be a habitual discourager of others, shall he serve in the assembly?

Brethren, each of us has a duty to show ourselves true servants of God and be of good cheer!

My Little Vine

Once I planted a vine beside a trellis. How carefully I tended the little sprout, watering it, and teaching the tendrils to twine about the slats. Warmed by the strong sun, and nourished by the refreshing rain, the vine grew, and little by little climbed halfway up the trellis. In a little while it began to provide shade, and became a thing of beauty.

But one dark night a storm came. The wind blew furiously, and the rain fell in torrents. The next morning, the little vine was lying on the ground, half submerged in muddy water.

I stooped down and tenderly lifted the fallen vine out of the mire, and twined it carefully about the trellis again. In places I fastened its tendrils to the slats with pieces of soft string. Then I watched it grow day by day, and observed with pleasure that the vine I had lifted up was taking a fresh hold.

Am I ever as considerate of my fellowmen - the men and women who suffer, and weep, and waver, and fall - as I was of that little vine, that knew neither pain nor pleasure? Am I as eager to lift up my brother man who has fallen low? Let us give men and women, with undying souls, as fair a chance to begin life over as we would an insignificant plant.

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