



## 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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## Why Baptism?

The Ethiopian Eunuch once asked, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Why did he ask this? Consider a few passages.

**1. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins.** "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Notice the command to be baptized was literally in order to receive the forgiveness of sins.

**2. Baptism washes away sins.** When Paul was giving an account of his conversion, he was told, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). At what point did his sins get washed away? At the moment of baptism.

**3. Baptism saves.** The great commission from Jesus states, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). The apostle Peter taught that "Baptism ... now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

**4. Baptism puts one into Christ.** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). "Into Christ," indicates being in His possession and enjoying His spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

**5. Baptism is when we receive a new life.** "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). When one decides to become God's child, his conversion resembles the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Just as Christ died, so one dies to his old self. Just as Jesus was buried, so he is buried in the waters of baptism. Just as Jesus rose from dead, when he comes out of the water, he rises to walk in a newness of life.

Bear in mind that baptism is not the only thing that gives one salvation. It is administered after one hears the good news with a response of faith (Acts 8:37), repentance (Acts 2:38), and confession (Acts 8:37). Yet it is at the moment of baptism that one becomes a child of God.

*"And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him ... and went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:38-39).*

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## Hebrews and the Heart

At least seven times in the Hebrew letter, the writer has occasion to make some comment concerning the heart. In the third chapter, he makes mention of the heart three times (Heb. 3:7-12). Thus one can see that the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.

**1. There Is the Effect upon the Heart** (Heb. 3:7-8). His appeal is that they hear his voice and not harden the heart. They could, however, allow the message they heard to simply harden their hearts. They could become insensitive to the appeals of the gospel. They would hear but they would not hear.

It would do us well to stop and examine our most recent reaction to lessons we have heard. Were they retained or rejected? What effect did they have on our souls?

**2. There Is the Erring Heart** (Heb. 3:10). "They do err in their heart." This is an inspired description of faulty thinking and

reasoning. Isn't this where Simon went wrong when he tried to buy the power to impart the Holy Spirit? Peter told him to repent of the thought of his heart that was in error (Acts 8:21-23).

**3. There Is the Evil Heart** (Heb. 3:13). The writer warns of the dangers of this heart and appeals to them to avoid such a heart. He well knew the nature and danger of unbelief and what effect such a heart would surely have upon these people.

Such a heart would turn down the evidence that was presented. In so doing, one would have to close his mind to the gospel. This is not a good and honest heart.

**4. There Is the Firmly Established Heart** (Heb. 13:9). "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Such a heart has its hope clearly fixed. It is stable and steadfast because of firmly held convictions from which one does not dare to waver.

The writer knew the perils and pressures they faced (and which we also face today). He also knew the need then and now of an established heart.

Yes, the Hebrew letter focuses upon the heart with the hope that all may have hearts that are right in the sight of God. That, my bother and sister, is what counts.



## What Motivates You?

From time to time, we all could use some motivation to stay on the "strait and narrow." And it's always good to get advice from a seasoned Christian concerning matters like this. So let's do so.

Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 5:9, "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him." In the six verses that follow, it seems to me that Paul was listing some things that kept him motivated to continually make sure that his actions were pleasing God. Some of them may surprise you, but if you will utilize these as Paul did, you will definitely stay motivated. Notice what motivated Paul:

**The Judgment.** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body ..." (v. 10). Paul knew that he would be judged by his actions and that prompted him to stay faithful. Note: It could be said that Heaven was

also a motivational encouragement for Paul, as he was confident of going there after the Judgment (Philippians 1:21-23).

**Fear.** "Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men ... " (v. 11). Paul knew that God meant what He said and he respected it and even feared disappointing God, and that kept him moving forward.

**Others.** "For we ... give you opportunity to boast on our behalf ... if we are of sound mind, it is for you" (v. 12-13). Paul knew that his actions affected and influenced others, and that spurred him on to keep doing what was right.

**Love.** "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (v. 14). Knowing that Christ loved him and died for him drove Paul to return that love to Christ and keep on living for Him.

Need some motivation to keep on keeping on in the faith? Then remember the coming Judgment of God, that God means what He says, that we can influence others toward God, and how much God loves us! Stay motivated!

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## Why You Should Attend Bible Classes

1. You do not yet know all that can be known about the Bible; therefore, you need to keep studying; Bible classes afford an excellent opportunity for study.
2. You are faced with trials and temptations like everyone else; therefore, you need to be fortified in your faith; Bible classes help tremendously in that.
3. You have influence on others, especially upon those closest to you - your brethren and your family. Your presence and participation in Bible classes is an encouragement to others, while your absence is a source of discouragement and a hindrance to spirituality.
4. You have a soul that shall live on after this life is over; therefore, you need to be busy preparing that soul for eternity; Bible classes certainly help you do so.
5. You ought to hunger and thirst after the Word of God, knowing it is the power of God unto salvation, seeking to hide it in your heart that you might not sin. Yes, you should attend. Will you?