



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.

Vol. 40, No. 9

March 1, 2026

What's on Your Mind?

One night, a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him as he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, amazement, enchantment, skepticism.

Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions aroused, with eyes glistening, she slipped her arm around her husband. A penny for your thoughts," she said. "It's amazing!" he replied, "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only \$48.50."

Sometimes our thoughts are not as grand as they might be. We partake of the Lord's Supper and ought to have our thoughts centered on the sacrifice of our Savior. Instead, we think about what we're going to eat for dinner. We see a spectacular sunset and ought to be led to reflect on the glory and grandeur of God the Creator. Instead, we wonder who's winning the ballgame.

You get the idea. As difficult as it is to keep our lives and our tongues under control, it seems so much more difficult to bring our "every thought into captivity" (2 Corinthians 10:5). If we're not careful, our thoughts tend to wander into forbidden territory. Allow these words of Paul to call us back. "Finally, brethren, whatever things

are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Why Do Children Suffer?

"The tongue of the infant clings to the roof of its mouth for thirst; the young children ask for bread, but no one breaks it for them" (Lamentations 4:4).

Old men and women declare wars, young men and women fight them. Moms and dads abuse drugs and alcohol, babies are born addicted. The greed of the older folks impoverish the youthful.

As sins and choices have consequences, most sins and choices affect more than just the one who committed or made them. While no one can inherit guilt from another, many children suffer due to another's sins!

What a blessing it would be if all of us would just stop for a moment before making a choice to consider how it will affect those we love. How beautiful life might become if we would meditate upon a sin's effect on those around us before sinning.

By the time of Jeremiah, Israel had drifted so far from God that His holiness could no longer allow their choices and sins to go unpunished. Lamentations expresses the prophet's sorrow over what those choices and sins brought upon his fellow Israelites. Lamentation 4:4 reminds us that when the guilty are called to answer for their choices, the innocent sometimes suffer as well.

Children often go hungry because parents desert them or refuse to work, or waste what resources they have on that which is sinfully addictive.

Children often bear the bruises and scars adults inflict upon them in fits of anger or irresponsibility.

Children often find their lives stifled and the ceiling for their lives lowered at a very young age due to the lack of healthy ambition within their moms and dads.

It is a terrible thing to live in such a manner as to ruin ourselves. To destroy our health, reputation, and influence through wasted living is reprehensible - but of far greater shame and abomination is the ruining of our children in the process. We can rob them of any chance to succeed or find happiness by slamming the doors of opportunity in their faces before they are even old enough to have a chance!

Eternity Is Coming

William Russell of England, standing on the scaffold about to be beheaded, took his watch from his pocket and gave it to a Dr. Burnett, who was attending him. Russell told the doctor, "My time piece may be of service to you; I have no farther occasion for it. My thoughts are fixed on eternity."

Eternity is an extremely hard concept for man to comprehend. In fact, eternity is so incomprehensible to the mind of mortal man that in all the Holy Bible, the word "eternity" occurs but one time. That's in Isaiah 57:15 (KJV) where the prophet says that God "inhabits eternity."

Perhaps we're just too wrapped up in day-to-day occurrences of the here and now. Whatever the reason, there is no doubt we would benefit by giving more attention to the biblical teaching of the there and then. In order to survive on earth, everyone needs to think more about what will happen when we leave earth for the final frontier - eternity itself.

Who Will Stand in the Gap?

Ancient cities relied on fortified walls for security. Unlike brick walls on modern houses, these walls were scores of feet high and thick enough for residences to be located within them.

Punching through such a wall required siege engines, battering rams, and a great deal of time! But once a gap (breach) was made, enemy troops could pour into the city. Defenders needed to stand in the gap to prevent such a calamity and repair the breach. Such work endangered one's life, but an open breach spelled the end of the city.

God's word likens the wickedness of His people to a gap in the wall. "Therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach (gap) ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly in an instant" (Isaiah 30:9). God would send enemy nations to chasten them, endangering their physical well being. But of greater concern, was their spiritual, eternal condition. Therefore, He sought faithful people to stand in the gap, promoting righteousness by example and by teaching. Tragically, "I sought for a man ... who would ... stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one" (Ezekiel 22:30).

Where are the men and women of God today who will stand in the gap? We have a morality gap where good and evil are reversed. We have a doctrine gap where the word of God is sacrificed on the altar of cultural change. We have an integrity gap where professing Christians,

especially religious leaders, are fleecing the sheep rather than feeding them, often being caught up in criminal activity and sexual misconduct.

Indeed, where are the men and women of God today who will stand in the gap? Will you?

The Real Influencers

You know what people who are really popular on YouTube, Instagram, or TikTok are called? Influencers. I guess because so many people follow them and are influenced by them. Well, let me tell you who the real influencers are supposed to be: Christians - you and me - and we don't need to be on social media to do it.

Paul so poignantly put it in Romans 14:7, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself." We are always around other people and we should influence them for God and good.

So how do we influence others? I can think of two ways - by what we say and by what we do. Colossians 4:5-6 puts it this way: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time" (note: that's what we do). "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (note: that's what we say).

Jesus also referenced His followers as influencers when He compared them to salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt is very influential - it affects everything it comes into contact with. Light penetrates and dispels darkness. If we live and speak as we ought, others will take notice and be influenced.

Our influence as Christians cannot be overemphasized. We have an effect on others. This is illustrated well by the poem "Touching Others" (author unknown).

The slightest breeze that ever blew
Some slender grass has wavered,
The smallest life I ever knew
Some other life has flavored.
We cannot live our lives alone
For other lives we touch
Are either strengthened by our own,
Or weakened just as much.

Let us all be concerned about how we are influencing others - for they are watching and taking note. "Be an example ... in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).