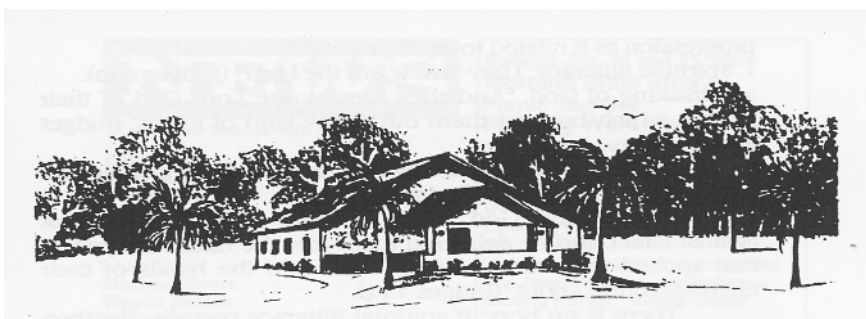




## Cape Coral Church of Christ

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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## Discoveries of a Lifetime

Some have discovered cures for dreaded diseases. Some have been given credit for discovering countries. Some have changed the world through discovering scientific laws. Think of the discoveries relating to transportation and communication. Discoveries in the space program have taken us to new heights. No doubt there will be other discoveries if time continues (James 4:15).

You may have made some interesting discoveries, too. You might have found some arrowheads while digging or while walking in a field. You may have found old coins, discovered valuable antiques, or come across an old book, long out of print. These may enrich your life but none are "discoveries of a lifetime."

These are the discoveries of a lifetime that anyone can find:

**Finding the Lord:** Joseph and Mary found Jesus (Luke 2:45-46). Philip told Nathaniel that he had "found him, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth" (John 1:45). We sing about finding "a friend in Jesus" and finding "my Lord and He is mine." Jesus is above all (John 3:31). He is the friend of sinners. Never did a man speak or live like Him (John 7:46; Hebrews 4:15). Paul says the Lord can be found and He is not far from any of us (Acts 17:27). Jesus is the discovery of a lifetime!

**Finding the Law of God:** During Josiah's reign, the book of the law was discovered (2 Kings 22). Of all places, it was found in the house of the Lord. Friend, have you found the law of God? It is a map from earth to heaven. It is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). Your life would be greatly blessed by seeking out the law of the Lord.

**Finding the Church of the Lord:** The Lord compared the kingdom of heaven to finding a treasure or a pearl for which one would sell all he had to obtain it (Matthew 13:44-46). The church was designed by God (Daniel 2:44; Ephesians 3:10), built by Christ (Matthew 16:18), bought by Jesus (Acts 20:28), and will be saved by the Lord (Ephesians 5:23). It is the group for which the Lord will return and will present to the Father at the end (1 Corinthians 15:24).

**Finding Heaven:** Wise people in ancient times looked for a city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10). How sad to not find heaven at the end of the way.

Friend, these things are life's discoveries. You can anchor your life and soul and hope in these precious things. They will not pass away.

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## **Living Paycheck to Paycheck**

It is hard to get ahead these days. The cost of living continues to rise and wages aren't keeping up. For many Americans, they are barely getting by.

Today, it is being reported that one in four Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. This is an unsustainable way of living. If you drain your bank account between every pay period, you will have no funds for emergencies. What if your car breaks down? What if you lose your job? What if you are hospitalized? If you are living paycheck to paycheck, you could be one unexpected expense away from being ruined.

Many Christians today are in a similar situation when it comes to their spiritual life. Every Sunday they get their weekly deposit of Christian teaching and forgiveness, and then they cash it all out during the week on the same sins they always do. When Sunday rolls around again, they breathe a sigh of relief as they receive another deposit of grace to keep the cycle going.

This is also an unsustainable way of living. But, the consequences of abusing the grace of God are far worse than falling behind on rent. If we treat God's forgiveness as transactional, then we make a mockery of His mercy.

The Bible has a lot to tell us about what happens when we take God for granted. In Romans 6:1-14, Paul explains that Christians must be dead to sin. He tells us that we cannot continue in sin (vv. 1-2), and we must walk in newness of life (v. 4). We must crucify our old man and no longer be slaves of sin (v. 6). When we become a Christian, we are to no longer "let sin reign in [our] mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts ..." (v. 12). Sin is incompatible with the Christian life.

But what if we do keep on sinning? Will God keep on forgiving us so long as we keep coming to church? Absolutely not! In Hebrews 10:26-27, the Bible says, "For if we sin willfully after we received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation ...." Going to church doesn't buy us extra sinning rights. We cannot earn God's forgiveness. We are saved by God's grace and not by works (cf. Eph 2:8-9). We are saved because Jesus suffered the agony of the cross. And, if we fall back into the life of sin, Hebrews 6:6 tells us that we crucify again the Son of God.

Have you been treating your Christian walk as transactional? Are you abusing the grace of God so you can keep indulging in the sins you were washed from? We are one unexpected accident away from eternity. If we keep living paycheck to paycheck with God, we are going to find ourselves in ruin.

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## **The Highway of Holiness**

Isaiah is truly the Messianic prophet because he gives so many detailed descriptions of the nature of the Christ and the work He would do. Most individuals know the words of Isaiah chapter 53, where we read of the One on whom our iniquity would be laid. We know of that Lamb led to the slaughter and He would not open His mouth during that ordeal. Far too few know of Isaiah chapter 35 and the wonderful truths about His coming.

The chapter begins with a promise that God would some day come and bring two events with Him. He would come with salvation and vengeance (v. 4). The evidence that Jesus had come would be that the eyes of the blind would be opened and the ears of the deaf would be unstopped (v. 5). It is to this very verse that Jesus referenced when John's disciples asked if He was the Messiah or should they look for someone else to come (Luke 7:20-22).

Isaiah then reveals that there would be a new path called the Highway of Holiness that would lead men to God. On that highway would be the

redeemed singing with everlasting joy and gladness. Sorrow and sighing would flee (v. 8-10). He who was the "way, the truth and the life" would bring that pathway to God (John 1:6).

The Messianic prophet then reveals two aspects of this highway. It would be characterized by holiness. God had said, "Be ye holy for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44). The blood of the Messiah would make true holiness come upon mankind (1 Peter 1:16). Judaism was characterized by ceremonial uncleanness but Christianity would involve a holy nation with a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

The other aspect of that highway would be how simple it would be to find and then to walk on that path. "Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray" (v. 8). While there are difficult passages of the Bible to fully comprehend, none of them involve our salvation. Our God wants all men who hunger and thirst after righteousness to be filled. This is why the New Testament is written in simple terms, easily understood and in the simplest language.

To see this truth, find any passage about faith in the Bible to see if it is involved in our finding God. Then find any passage about repentance to see if it is involved. Find any of those passages about confessing Christ to see its place on entrance to the highway of holiness. Finally, find any passage about baptism to see if God has made it part of that highway.

Now note that I said "any passage." There is not any verse about faith, repentance, confession, and baptism that is hard. The highway has come. Finding it is simple!

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## **Something to Think About**

A man was walking down a little hill in the woods when he stepped on a little twig. The twig rolled and he fell down. As he got up and went on his way, he thought to himself, "If that had been a big log, I would have seen it and climbed over it. There would have been no danger of falling, for I would have been aware of the danger." The fact that the twig was small was what made it dangerous.

In our spiritual pathway, the devil places little temptations to defeat us. His little traps or obstructions are more effective than the big ones, partly because if people do notice them, they may think they are too small to make a difference.

Beware of little things!! It was only a "little thing" - a bit of forbidden fruit - that brought sin and its curse into the world.