



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

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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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Staying Busy

Professional beekeepers say that you never want to "rob a hive" (remove the honeycomb to extract the honey) on a rainy day. On rainy days the bees are typically in a bad mood because they are stuck in the hive. They really do not like the rain. However, pick a sunny day because on sunny days the bees are out working, and they are always the happiest when they are working.

Our Creator knew that man needed work to do, so He assigned Adam to "tend and keep" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). Paul understood this principle, as is shown by his words to the brethren in Thessalonica, "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in such a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread" (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12). Raymond Kelcy noted that Paul used the imperfect tense, which means the apostle repeatedly commanded them. The ones who habitually refused to earn a living were to be refused aid by their brethren.

Unfortunately, the same people who refuse to do anything to help themselves often fill their hours telling others how to do their business. It really is impossible to remain idle. Those who do not busy themselves

taking care of their own needs and those of their family will actively be doing things that harm both their physical and spiritual families. The apostle commanded, thereby exercising authority he had from the Lord, and exhorted or called them to his side to lovingly encourage them to change their ways.

The church, God's family, can learn a great lesson from Paul's instructions. Each of us, as members of the body, has a job to do (Romans 12:4-5). We ought to stay busy doing the work God has made us best suited to do. This will keep us happy and make it less likely that we will hurt the work of the Lord by becoming busybodies in other men's business.



Find a Storm Shelter

Rain falls gently at times, but recent storms have hit hard and dumped huge amounts of water on the earth, flooding many communities. Rain is going to fall in our lives too, in different ways-physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually-and these life-storms will vary in size and intensity. Storms are our common lot, but the question is: where do we turn when the storms of life rage?

Jesus taught, "Everyone who hears these words of mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Sooner or later, the rains will descend, the floods come, and the winds blow and beat in our lives. One man's house falls in ruins, while another's stands secure. The difference lies not in the intensity of the storm, but in the power to withstand its fury. The power to withstand the storms of life depends upon the foundation of one's life.

In Jesus' teaching, the house of the wise man withstood the storm because his house was built upon the rock. And who is the wise man? The wise man is one who hears the words of Jesus and does them. Jesus assures us that no matter what storms may arise, obedience to Him is the only sure foundation on which to build our lives – lives that will withstand the test of time and the Judgment to follow.

One begins building upon the Rock through faith (Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Acts 17:30-31), and immersion into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then, one must continue to build his house – his life – on the Rock, by continuing to hear and to obey the words of Jesus and His inspired apostles.

Help Others Anyway!

Have you ever been disappointed in someone? Have you ever realized too late that he has taken advantage of you? Have you ever helped someone and never received even a "thank you" in return? I'm sure most, if not all, of us can answer "Yes" to at least one of those questions. The tendency is for us to become cold hearted and declare, "I will never be in that situation again!" Most of us would also feel that we are perfectly right to have such an attitude after the way we've been treated.

While this attitude is understandable, it is not what God wants us to do. Remember that Jesus could also answer "Yes" to all those questions many times over, yet His reaction was quite different from ours. Jesus came upon ten lepers. They lived a miserable existence and pleaded for mercy from Jesus. He extended mercy, healed them, and told them to go and show themselves to the priest. Somewhere along the way, they were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus for such a wonderful blessing. Luke emphasized that this one was a Samaritan, one that most Jews would look down on with great disfavor. Jesus asked a pointed question, which may indicate the sadness in his heart, "Where are the nine?" (Luke 17:11-17). Yes, Jesus was disappointed many times over, especially by the Jewish leaders, but he never quit showing kindness.

What about us? Have we ever disappointed God? Have we ever forgotten to thank Him for some great blessing? Again, I'm sure all of us would answer those questions in the affirmative. However, God has not, and will not, turn His back on us. He loves us in spite of our weaknesses. He will forgive continually, even though we repeatedly make mistakes. If God will do that for us, maybe we need to rethink our declaration, "I will never help anyone again!" "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" (Matthew 7:2).

A Poor Trade!

The first reports were curious; the latest more curious still. It seems a prisoner from a Pampa, Texas prison escaped from his work detail. While this is not unusual in and of itself, there is a quirky aspect to his flight – he had just three weeks left in his prison term. All of us who heard the news wondered the same thing: why, with such a short time left on his sentence, would a prisoner risk escaping? The prisoner was caught and now faces the very real possibility of twenty-five additional years of incarceration.

But the whole matter grows even stranger. Information has just been revealed which may answer the question of why the prisoner escaped. He was desperate for cigarettes. That's right. According to news reports, he escaped with just three weeks in his prison term in order to get his hands on some cigarettes. Curious! No doubt this is an understatement. Why would one trade a quarter century of freedom for a few cigarettes?

And yet what about us? Aren't we even more foolish when we trade our very souls and an eternity of bliss for a few years of sinful, selfish pleasure? Because of Jesus Christ and His precious, cleansing blood, we are close – so very close – to living with God forever. But all can be lost in our frenzied desperation to live like the world. The result? A punishment lasting far longer than twenty-five years; a punishment the Bible refers to as "everlasting" (Matthew 16:26). The words of Jesus are haunting and true, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Whose trade is really more foolish? The man who exchanges twenty-five years of life for a few cigarettes? Or the individual who exchanges both a soul and an eternity in heaven for a few days of sin?

Avoid the Beginning

If we want to abstain from doing things our conscience does not approve, we should avoid the beginning of evil. David's lust for beautiful women finally resulted in adultery and murder. Judas' lust for money grew greater until he betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Demas' lust for the present world absorbed his thoughts until he turned his back on his only hope of the world to come. The thirst for sin is not easy to quench. "One short hour" may be the beginning of a cycle which you may not be able to overcome, though you try the rest of your life. Avoid the beginning of evil.