



## 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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## The Origin of Easter

Easter is named after a pagan fertility goddess whose day was celebrated at the Vernal Equinox. This day marks the time when the sun is directly over the equator. From that day until the Fall in the northern hemisphere, the daylight is longer than the night. This was cause for celebration as it marked the beginning of a new season of agricultural growth, relief from the privations of winter, and pleasant weather. The name derives from Eostra, a Teutonic goddess of Spring.

The traditions peculiar to that day such as decorated eggs, rabbits, new clothes, and meeting at sunrise derive from ancient cultic practices that antedate Christianity. Misguided church authorities incorporated these items into a celebration associated with the resurrection of Christ. Such syncretism was hoped to influence the conversion of pagan populations.

Of the 29 times the word *paska* is used in the Greek New Testament, the King James Version translates it "passover" twenty-eight times while once it is translated "Easter." The following modern translations or paraphrases all render the word "passover": *God's Word*, *International Children's Bible - New Century Version*, *New American Standard Bible*, *Revised Standard Version*, *American Standard Version*, *Darby's New Translation*, *International Standard Version*, *New International*

*Version, New King James Version, New Living Translation, The Living Bible, The Message, New Revised Standard Version, and Young's Literal Translation.*

Thus modern scholarship finds no reason for the use of the word "Easter." There is no evidence that such a celebration was ever held in New Testament times. Neither is there a command, example, or implication in the New Testament that it was known to the apostolic church. However, the church was commanded and did observe the Lord's Supper, on which occasion they remembered the Lord's death with the prospect of his coming again (1 Cor. 11:26). We know this by his expected return to raise the dead (1 Thess. 4:14-18), his being the first-fruits of them that will be raised (1 Cor. 15:23), and his declaration to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4). To make an annual holy day connected with either the Passover or a pagan feast day is an unauthorized addition to the appointments of God. Such an annualized celebration has led many to think that attendance upon this day alone is sufficient for pleasing God rather than faithful observance of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-25).

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## **Antique Chairs and Old Bibles**

Someone said the reason many antique chairs are uncomfortable is because all the comfortable chairs wore out long ago. Well, that may or may not be true, but old Bibles that have survived the years in good condition certainly didn't get much use.

Bibles that are used wear out. Even Bibles of excellent craftsmanship deteriorate when used frequently. What better sight than to see someone with a Bible showing signs of heavy use.

"Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" John 20:30-31).

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Better to have a Bible with the pages falling out than to have one with the pages still stuck together. An unused Bible may last a lifetime, but what good is a book that is seldom read?

# Look Up!

Have you ever noticed that we humans hang our heads when we are sad or feel defeated? I'm not sure why we do that. It is such a universal response that it is likely innate and reflexive. When children have been punished or shamed, they hang their heads. When adults have been humiliated or when the burden of the world is on their shoulders, they hang their heads. Job equated the action with misery and disgrace, "If I am wicked, woe to me! And if I am righteous, I dare not lift up my head. I am sated with disgrace and conscious of my misery" (Job 10:15).

Sometimes we probably SHOULD hang our heads. We sometimes do things that are less than noble or from less than noble motives. If we have treated others with dishonor; if we ourselves have acted ignobly; if we are in the wrong, then bobble-heads we should be!

But thankfully, God can restore our dignity and worth. Psalm 3:3 declares of the Lord, "But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head."

According the inscription at the beginning of this psalm, David wrote this while fleeing from his son Absalom. Absalom rebelled against David and temporarily drove him from the throne and Jerusalem (2 Samuel 15-19). The psalm begins with a declaration by David that his adversaries abound. But despite their threats, he has the assurance of God's past deliverance and the promise of future security. It is in this context of trust that David makes the declaration in Psalm 3:3. Lifting the head symbolizes victory over one's enemies (Psalm 27:6) and, here, the restoration of dignity and place.

If your head is hanging because of things you have done, lift up your head, for there is forgiveness. If your head is hanging because your circumstances weigh heavily upon you, lift up your head, for there is hope. If your head is hanging because you're not sure of your worth to God, lift up your head, for there is assurance.

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## Can You Be Trusted?

Did you know that Edison was born almost completely deaf? He could hear only the loudest of sounds. Yet you may also recall that it was Edison who invented the phonograph. Odd, don't you think? Odder still, however, is the fact that the work on this invention began two

months after Edison's plant, containing his inventions, burnt to the ground. Many have quoted the famous words spoken to his brother as they watched their life's work go up in smoke. "There go all our mistakes. Now we can start over afresh."

Edison didn't have a hand up, charmed life, or golden boy status. Yet he was a great success who changed the world. Often, however, our lives are very different. We seem greatly blessed, but do little with our blessings. This is especially true in spiritual matters. Many who have the greatest gift of all, the gift of salvation, never get around to doing anything with it. Content just to let the world fly by us, we often miss out on some of the greatest opportunities to do the work of the Lord and accomplish great things for the kingdom.

The reasons are many and bear names like fear, lack of vision, apathy, laziness, a lack of spiritual discernment, and contentment. Whatever the case may be, we can be assured that our Lord and Savior, who took the bittersweet opportunity to save mankind by dying on a cross, is not pleased.

In this day, do with what you have. After all, God has given it to you for a reason. Maybe you don't have more because you can't be trusted with little. "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:10-12).

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## **God Needs Your Little Bit**

When I was growing up, one of the difficult things for me to understand was how a snow could blanket the ground. I would watch the first flakes fall, and immediately upon touching the ground they would melt. I thought to myself, "If the first ones melt and the second ones do the same, how can they blanket the ground? What I didn't understand was that each snowflake cooled the ground just a little more for the ones that would follow. If one snowflake began to melt, it would leave enough of itself that, added to the thousands of others, it would blanket the ground.

You may never convert a soul to Christ all by yourself, but what you say and how you live, coupled with the same from others, will eventually convert someone to Christ. Paul said that he "planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6,7). God needs your little bit!