



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 Perfect Spot

Are you planning a vacation this summer? Suppose I told you that I knew of a vacation spot unlike any you have ever visited. This place has no crime, no disease, and no death. No clouds are seen in the sky, and the sun never sets. The scenery is indescribable. There is a river of water as clear as crystal. The banks are tree lined. Wealth is so abundant that the main street is paved with pure gold. There is no charge for anything. Your bill has been paid in advance by another. You will never have to leave, nor will you want to, and those you've left behind can join you if they like. This vacation will last forever.

If such a place existed, would you be interested? Few people could turn down the offer. The fact is, such a place does exist. The Bible calls it heaven. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). Here "God shall wipe away all tears ... and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall

there be any more pain" (Revelation 21:4). The beauty of heaven defies description.

I am reminded of the story of the preacher who asked his congregation to raise their hands if they wanted to go to heaven. Every hand in the assembly was raised but one. The preacher turned to the gentleman who had not raised his hand and asked, "Don't you want to go to heaven?" "Sure I do," he said, "but I thought you were getting up a load to go right now!" That's the way it is. We want to go but not just yet! Folks, the time to prepare is now (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Are you willing to be baptized for the remission of your sins? Will you serve Him faithfully all the days of your life?

Our Relationship with God

The Bible often describes our connection with God as being His children or joint heirs with Christ. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13). "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom. 8:16-17). Christ has shown and spoken words of love to us on the cross and in His Word. He continues to demonstrate His love toward us in His daily mercies. He is very close to the members of His family because He lives in our hearts. He is constantly drawing us toward Him as we draw near to Him (James 4:8).

The special relationship that we can have with God is well described in these words of David: "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You" (Psa. 139:17-18). Our God thinks about us all the time. He knows when we stand up and sit down, and He knows our every movement. He knows what we are going to say before we say it, and He even knows how many hairs are located on our heads. God loves us and He thinks about us constantly. In fact,

His thoughts about us are so numerous that they outnumber all of the grains of sand in the entire planet. David affirms that the knowledge of all of these thoughts toward us by God is so precious to us. The fact that God values His relationship with us to that degree is overwhelming for our minds. However, do we value God in a way that is even remotely similar? Of course, we cannot love to the same infinite and perfect way that God does, but through faith we should be increasing in our love for Him each day. Our thoughts about Him should be constantly on the increase. When that does not happen, it probably means we have an ongoing issue with God, such as unconfessed sin, bitterness, lack of trust, doubt in His Word, etc. If we want to regain our intimacy with God and grow in it, we need to have an open conversation with God and we need to align our thoughts with his (2 Cor. 10:5). The more we open our hearts in vulnerability to Him, the more we can actually enjoy the very person who can offer the greatest enjoyment possible. "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psa. 16:11).

The special relationship that we can have with God brings us in the blessed reality of being Jesus' friend. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). All that we need in order to be able to grow in Christ, to change and be sanctified, and to be prepared and ready for every good work that Christ has called us to is found in the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Our friendship with Jesus is directly related to our faithfulness to listen to Him speak to us as we read His Word. We need to persevere in the Bible, study it, and meditate on it. There should never be a time when God's Word is irrelevant to us in a decision-making process. It should never be a non-issue when trying to plan a moral course of action. If we want to grow in our relationship with God, we need to patiently, persistently, and fervently learn and live God's Word. There is no shortcut or easy method here. If we want to get the most out of our relationship with God, we need to invest in it accordingly by being always in the Word, spending much time in prayer, and putting in practice what we have read and learned. The more we know God, the more we will love God and enjoy being loved by Him.

Which Inspired Writer Told You

That Sinners Can Pray to a Heavenly Father?

How many times have you heard preachers on the radio or TV ask sinners to kneel beside their radio or TV and ask God to forgive them? Now think again, how many times have you read where inspired men told sinners to pray? We are told, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). The wise man said, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the word of the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (Proverbs 28.9). It is very evident that one who is a child of the devil cannot pray to a Father in heaven. If he tries, he is all turned around, for his father is not in that direction? Jesus said of such, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father will ye do" (John 8:44). One who is a child of the devil is not in the family of God. To be heard of God, you must be a worshiper of God and do His will. For this reason, inspired men never told an alien sinner to pray, nor a saved person to be baptized. Sectarianism has reversed this order completely!

Every religious question cries out for an answer, but we must remember that no such question has been correctly answered until God answers it. Therefore every doctrine taught by men should be investigated in the light of God's Word, and every religious teacher judged accordingly. "To the law and the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). The next time, and every time, you hear a sermon, ask yourself this question: "Which inspired writer said it?" Such spiritual discernment can lead you to God's truth, and that truth can make you free (John 8:32).

It's Not ...

It is not the **ARITHMETIC** of our prayers, how many they are; nor the **RHETORIC** of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the **GEOMETRY** of our prayers, how long they may be; nor the **MUSIC** of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor **LOGIC** of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the **METHOD** of our prayers, how orderly they may be; or even the **THEOLOGY** of our prayers, how good the doctrine - which God cares for. **FERVENCY OF SPIRIT** is that which **AVAILETH MUCH!**