



## Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

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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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## The World's Best Book

The prophecies of the Bible are amazing. Eight hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Caesar sent out a decree, as recorded in Luke 2:1, that all the world should be registered. So Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem and gave birth to Jesus, because her husband Joseph, a descendant of David, had to return to his birthplace for the census. Pretty amazing!

You can turn to Psalm 22, which was written hundreds of years before the crucifixion of Christ, and find there thirty detailed descriptions of death by crucifixion. This was written before the crucifixion was ever even known as a form of execution in Palestine. The Jews did not crucify; they stoned. Yet in Psalm 22, you read these words, "They pierced my hands and my feet" (22:16).

It was prophesied that the soldiers would cast lots for His garments, hundreds of years before the actual event (22:18). The Bible even prophesied in Zechariah 12:10, "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced." Amazing isn't it? The Old Testament is written as though a man were standing at the foot of the cross.

# The Futility of Rebellion

Have you ever given your time and energies to that which later proved to be an exercise in futility? If you have, no doubt you have experienced the feelings of despair that are closely associated with such wasted efforts. Unfortunately, men spend much of their time and energies in the wasted effort of living in rebellion to God.

Psalm Two addresses the opposition and rebellion that man has engaged in toward the Christ. Peter in Acts Four applied the Psalm to Christ and the opposition that He faced from Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel (Acts 4:25-27). Even those who are only partially acquainted with the New Testament are surely aware that Jesus was "despised and rejected of men" (Isaiah 53:3). Jesus was opposed by the people of His day. He was opposed by Herod as an infant (Matthew 2:1-13); by the Jewish religious leaders during His public ministry (Matthew 22:15-40); and the climax of their opposition is seen in the crucifixion (Matthew 27:1-49). However, the opposition by men did not prevent God from fulfilling His purpose in Jesus Christ (Psalm 2:6; Acts 2:32,33). The rebellion and opposition of men was an act of futility.

Men today choose to live their lives in rebellion and opposition to Christ. They want to throw away the divine restraints and live according to their own desires (Psalm 2:3). God's law in regard to sexual purity is dismissed by the masses (1 Corinthians 6:18). Men rebel against Christ when they ignore His words on divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:1-9). Men place themselves in opposition to Christ when they flagrantly dismiss his instructions in regard to our relationship with others. When men lie, steal, cheat, and murder, they show an utter disregard for the ethical instruction that Christ delivered to man (Matthew 5-7). Men opposed Christ in the first century and men continue to oppose Him in the twenty-first century.

Rebellion against the Christ will not be ignored. We can either serve the Son and pay Him homage, or His anger will be kindled against us (Psalm 2:12). We cannot sin against God with impunity. We cannot place ourselves in rebellion and opposition to the Christ without suffering the consequences of a life of rebellion. Men may oppose Christ and His will, but none will be successful. Opposition to Christ is nothing more than an exercise of futility.

Are you engaged in a futile effort?

## What Parents Owe Their Children

There is no doubt that we owe certain things to our children. Paul says that parents have the responsibility to lay up for their children (2 Corinthians 12:14). But what we owe them is not always what they want, nor always what the world thinks we owe them. We have not met our responsibilities when we give them material things and ignore what is really important. We can provide the latest fashions, and be sure the shoes say "Reebok" and still be negligent in our responsibilities toward our children. We can provide the best education money can buy, and still fail them.

What we really owe them is ...

**1. Knowledge of God.** This involves more than sending them to Bible School. We must also live it in front of them. A Ph. D. from Harvard is nothing compared to a knowledge of God.

**2. A Sense of Right and Wrong.** All the latest fads and fashions will only harm a child if he is not taught morality. Example teaches this better than preaching and lecturing.

**3. Our Love and Time.** Don't buy them off, give them your time. Let them know they are more important to you than anything in this world. Tell them every day how much you love them.

Give them the things that really matter, and it won't matter how much you give them materially. Even the poorest people in the world can bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Then you have truly given them what you owe them.

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## The Treasure Called Time

I would urge you to treat as more precious than gold that priceless treasure, time.

One step is all we can take at a time. We should stop occasionally to watch the clock, busily ticking on the wall. It piles up the hours, days, months, years, and centuries - but it does it all by paying attention to the seconds and the minutes as they come and go.

Each new hour is a new opportunity for aspiration, for endeavor, and for achievement; for adding something to the world's wealth and to your own substance. Time, even to its smallest units of hours and minutes, is the raw material of all human attainment.

Every grain of sand in the hour-glass is a part of your life that, once gone can never be called back again. Therefore, use every golden moment toward some useful purpose. And remember, when you waste time, you are wasting life ... your own!

# "Happiness..."

Many books, songs, and poems have tried to express what happiness is. "Happiness is a blue sky." "Happiness is ... being married to your best friend." Happiness is a big box of chocolates."

The world shows us many things that are supposed to make us happy on a lasting basis: a successful career, lots of money, fame and power, hobbies, freedom to do whatever you want. Satan pushes it even farther - look in a bottle, shoot it from a syringe, indulge in recreational sex - whatever makes you feel good will certainly make you happy. So why are so many people constantly searching and trying these various things yet coming up empty handed and disappointed?

King Solomon can answer that question for us. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon began by telling us of his quest for happiness. He said in verse 3 of chapter 2, "I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine while guiding my heart with wisdom and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives." He went on to list the things he tried in pursuit of his goal. He gratified his flesh with wine (v. 3), built magnificent buildings (v. 4-6), acquired servants and possessions (v. 7-8), and summed it up in v.10 as he declared, "Whatever my eyes desired I did not withhold my heart from my pleasure." Solomon tried virtually everything the world has to offer in pursuit of something to make him happy. Did he reach his goal? He continued in v.11, "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."

But Solomon finally realized that there was something worthwhile, something that could give him lasting peace and happiness. He revealed his discovery in the last chapter of Ecclesiastes and v.13. He states, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of man." Solomon found out through much trial and error what was good, worthwhile, and fulfilling: to seek and serve God with everything in himself. We are not so different from Solomon today. We seek after things to fill gaps of unhappiness or discontent in our lives. None of the things listed previously will fill those gaps permanently. Only in giving ourselves to God fully in all areas of our life will we find the fulfillment and satisfaction that so many in the world are seeking. True happiness comes in our relationship with a loving, merciful, and benevolent heavenly Father. We could all benefit by taking a lesson from the wisest man who ever lived: "Happiness is ... in the Lord!"