



Cape Coral Church of Christ

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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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Life's Fleeting Moments

Benjamin Franklin wrote,

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of. If time be of all things the most precious, wasting time must be the greatest prodigality; since lost time is never found again and what we call time enough always proves little enough.

Let us then be up and doing to the purpose; so by diligence shall we do more with less perplexity. Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all easy. Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure. Since thou art not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour.

Jesus observed, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Time is a precious commodity. Life's moments are fleeting. Moses observed, "We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90.9,10).

Tragically, too many people do squander time. They spend the present regretting the past or dreading the future, neither of which

should be our greatest concern. We cannot change the past, and there is no future if we neglect the present. The crucial question is not, "What have we done?" The important question is, "What are we doing now?" That is especially true in the spiritual realm! Now is the time to live for Jesus. We must not rest on past laurels, nor should we delay our response to His call for another time. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Do you believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God? Are you ready to repent of your sins? Will you be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38)? Now is the time to act. Tomorrow may be too late!

Peace!

Having peace and being at peace are two different things. As a Christian, you can be at peace in the middle of a battlefield, either literal or figurative. The world is "passing away" (1 John 2:17), but the Christian is "renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). In this world we will have tribulation (John 16:33), war, even attacks on us for our faith. But Jesus's promise is that He has overcome the world. His people will too (Revelation 12:11).

So where does the Christian find this peace in the chaos of life? God will keep those in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). He gives peace like a river (Isaiah 48:18), and Psalm 119:165 promises, "Great peace have those who love Your law."

Jesus, our Prince of Peace, promised, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). The world will never understand this peace (Philippians 4:7). Thomas Watson wrote, "If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble."

The old doctor supposedly said, "You do not get stomach ulcers from what you eat, You get ulcers from what is eating you."

If you're worried today, take time to reflect on the wonderful names of God revealed in Scripture. Judges 6:24 says, "Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it 'Jehovah-Shalom.'" Jehovah is a Hebrew name for God, and Shalom is the word for peace. The New King James Version says that Gideon named his altar "The-Lord-Is-Peace." In the Contemporary English Version, it is called: "The Lord Calms Our Fears." Our God is Jehovah-Shalom. Have peace today.

Always Wait for God

When trouble and discouragement are a reality in our lives and they persist, afflicting our daily thoughts and actions, we must learn to rest in God's good heart and in His perfect timetable. "It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone and keep silent, because God has laid it on him" (Lam. 3:26-28). God says that there is a proper time in which we must wait and endure trial. Our natural impulse is to try to escape trial and to run from pain, but sometimes we need to receive the difficulties of life, humbly and with patience, believing that all that is for our good.

Times of struggle, stress, and suffering are always used by God to teach us great and mighty truths that we did not know prior to enduring them. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:2-5). "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jer. 33:3). God wants us to be calm, humble, and at peace as we wait for Him to work and to deliver us as He knows best according to His timetable. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

God never promised that He would keep the Christian safe and protected from all struggles and pain in this life. On the contrary Peter writes, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13). What we are assured of is that if we belong to Christ, in the life to come He will wipe away all the tears, take away all the pain, and remove all the sorrow (Rev. 21:4).

David confessed, "I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and

established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth -- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD" (Psa. 40:1-3). Even David, God's anointed King over Israel and a man after God's own heart, had to wait. Waiting is just a part of the way of living with an all-loving and all-powerful God. Most of times, it is hard for us to trust and accept that God knows better than we do, and that His timing is not only wiser than ours but also the correct one. God pulled David from the spiritual swamp he put himself in when "the sweet psalmist of Israel" learned to trust God and wait patiently for Him to work.

We, too, need to wait and trust God even when (erroneously) we think that He is not listening or does not care to help. God does deliver, but not in our timing and according to what we believe is best for us. If we can continue to be longsuffering in times of suffering, we will honor our Lord because we will not have doubted His heart toward us, which is always good. God is unchanging and unchangeable, and His heart toward us is always perfectly good and filled with mercy and love. He is able to deliver us and He will work for our good as He helps us to become always more Christ-like. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psa. 23:6). "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (1 Chron. 16:34).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHILD OF GOD?

1. It means that we should follow Christ as sheep follow their shepherd – John 10.
2. It means that we should obey Christ and be loyal to Him as citizens in His kingdom – Acts 2:29-35.
3. It means that we must bear fruit for Christ as branches in the vine – John 15.
4. It means that we should co-operate and function as members of the body because He is the Head – 1 Cor. 12:14-27.
5. It means that we should shine as lights in the world because we are to reflect Him in our lives – John 8:12 and Phil. 2:15.
6. It means that we should fight and endure hardness as soldiers, because Christ is our captain and we are His army – 2 Tim. 2:3 and Eph. 6:14-17.