



## 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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## He Bowled a Perfect Game

Several years ago I read an article in which a man described a walk through a cemetery. He indicated that a particular tombstone caught his attention. Etched in the stone were the normal things that we might expect to find, such as the name, date of birth and death. There was also one added feature. The stone also recorded that on a particular date, this person had bowled a perfect game.

Man is easily impressed with the accomplishments of his peers. We hold in high esteem those who hit the most home runs, lead in RBI's, score the most touchdowns, make the most three-pointers, and those who bowl perfect games. Not trying to minimize the physical abilities of those who accomplish such feats, I have a hard time seeing how these things are really all that important.

I am convinced that God is not overly concerned with my bowling score, nor is He impressed with the make of my clothes, automobile, or the size of my house. The things that often impress men, don't necessarily impress God.

When we place these kinds of things in the greater context of life, death, the judgment, and eternity, we see their insignificance. What really matters in life is having an appropriate relationship with God. Jesus stated, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again,

he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Except a man be born of the water and Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3, 5). Being born again, and thus entering into the kingdom, should be of supreme importance of all.

A person is born again when he obeys God's revealed will (1 Peter 1:22,23). Thus, when one becomes acquainted with God's word, he will desire baptism for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Titus 3:5). God then adds the obedient believer to the church or kingdom (Acts 2:47). Being a citizen of the kingdom is very important. It will make a difference in eternity.

We sometimes become overly impressed with such things as bowling scores, but our chief concern should be whether or not our names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 10:12). Think about it.

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## Arrive on Time

A gentleman, having an appointment with another who was habitually unpunctual - to his great surprise found him waiting.

He thus addressed him, "Why, I see you are here first at last. You were always behind before. But I am glad to see you have become early of late."

One deterrent to dynamic church assemblies is the perpetual "late-comer." The start of Bible classes is delayed ... worshipers are distracted ... feet are stepped on - all because of a lack of respectful punctuality.

In a recent discussion with the Adult Bible Class teachers, we determined that 10-15 minutes are lost out of average class time due to tardiness. In fact, a number of weeks ago I took a head-count to determine the severity of this problem. The results: at the starting bell seven people were in the room in their seats. At the dismissal bell there were a total of forty-six in attendance.

Simple math and cursory observation indicates that there's a real problem! Typically, it's the same folks who are always late. I'm afraid it's a lackadaisical attitude that has turned into a habit. Many with small children and the most to do to prepare for worship usually arrive on time. Help us make the most of our time together by arriving on time.

An elderly Christian dreadfully crippled with rheumatism, used to hobble to the services of the church on two sticks. It was a great ordeal and required of her considerable toil and pain. A friend of hers observed her regularly and asked, "How do you manage to be at every service?"

Her answer was classic: "My heart gets there first, and my old legs just follow after."

A good lesson for us all. (Are you doing your best to arrive to all services on time?)

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## **Immorality**

A survey some years ago revealed that most Frenchmen no longer believe they sin. They make mistakes or commit errors, but they do not sin. Sin and immorality are not part of their vocabulary. Sadly, the same can be said of our own society.

Morality involves the concepts of "right" and "wrong." For centuries the word of God has been the standard for both acceptable and unacceptable conduct. But that is no longer the case. Recent trends have directed men away from the Bible and into a kind of "amoral" attitude in which nothing is inherently moral or immoral. Right and wrong are not a matter of divine pronouncement, but subject to the feelings and emotions of men.

Today, if it feels good and makes one happy, it is pronounced good. If it feels bad, or produces pain, then it must be evil. Abortion, adultery, homosexuality, drug use, and a whole host of other sins are now viewed as amoral, neither right nor wrong in themselves. There is no absolute standard in moral matters, and few seem to be really concerned. When men of either party can be elected without regard to the important issues of integrity and morality, this nation is in serious trouble.

I reject this amoral philosophy completely. The Bible is still the only standard for determining right and wrong. To reject it is to reject the only hope we have for a happy, productive life here, and for life with God in the hereafter. Even though many are unwilling to accept and abide by the divine standard, that does not make it any less true. There are some things which will always be right, and some which will always be morally reprehensible.

If an immoral revolution has swept our land, and I am convinced that it has, it is because the Bible has been discarded as the only acceptable standard for proper conduct. Only a return to the Scriptures can reverse the moral decline of recent decades. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

## In God We Trust

To be effective in our outreach, we must develop an attitude of complete trust in God. Following are some aspects of that trust:

**Trust in God's Power** – God is the awesome Creator and Sustainer of all things! He wrote the Word, which is His power for salvation to everyone who believes. We don't have to trust in the inadequacies of our own words, because everything we need to share with the lost has been provided for us in Scripture.

**Trust in God's Wisdom** – We may not understand why, but it is God's plan for us to share His gospel with the world. It seems foolish that God would trust us to spread His message, when He must have so many other effective ways to get the job done. But because the all-wise God passed on to us the ministry of reconciliation, we can approach our task with courage.

**Trust in God's Justice** – We can be confident that if we do our best, God will be pleased. If we share the gospel of salvation with someone and they do not respond, God will not hold that against us. Our success and failure is not measured in how many respond to the message. Our only failure is not taking advantage of every opportunity to share the Word.

With each attitude we try to develop, there is an attitude we must avoid. The opposite of trusting in God is trusting in ourselves. If we trust in our own abilities, we will be overwhelmed by the task and paralyzed by a fear of failure. Trusting in our own abilities can also cause us to teach our own opinions, instead of taking our students to the Word for their answers.

We must remember that we do not save sinners! Only Jesus could pay the price, and He willingly shed His blood. God chose to use us to spread that message to the lost. We must simply trust in the wisdom of that choice, and trust in His power to bring about His will.

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## What Think Ye of Christ

**Youth:** Too happy to think. There is plenty of time yet.

**Manhood:** Too busy to think. I must get more money.

**Declining Years:** Too old to think. The years are slipping away.

**Dying Bed:** Too ill to think. I am weak, suffering, and all alone.

**Death:** Too late to think. The spirit has flown.

**Eternity:** Forever now to think. God's mercy past.