



## 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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## We Will Go to Our Own "Place"

The writer Luke records that because of his transgression, the traitor Judas, "fell, that he might go to his own place" (Acts 1:25). There was no one to force him into it - he went to his own "place" of his own volition.

If we capture a worm, a beaver, or a bird and let them all go at the same time, they will each go to his own sphere or "place" - the earth, the water, and the air. We do not need to force them in order for them to go to their own "place."

If we hold a stone and an inflated helium balloon in our hand, letting them go at the same time, one will descend, while the other will ascend. They will only rest when they find their true "place."

Similarly, God will force no one to descend downward to hell, because He is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). Thus, if we find ourselves descending downward to that "place," it will be because that is the natural course for such a character as we have willingly built for ourselves while here on earth.

Let's remember that on that golden shore, there stands a loving Lord who delights in seeing men ascend in thought and in deed to forevermore dwell with him in a "place" He has prepared (John 14:2).

On that great judgment day, we will ascend to our own "place" the Lord has prepared for us, only if we (through our own volition) have been obedient to the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21).

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## Why Baptism?

The Ethiopian Eunuch once asked, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Why did he ask this? Consider a few passages.

**1. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins.** "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Notice the command to be baptized was literally in order to receive the forgiveness of sins.

**2. Baptism washes away sins.** When Paul was giving an account of his conversion he was told, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). At what point were his sins washed away? At the moment of baptism.

**3. Baptism saves.** The great commission from Jesus states, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). The apostle Peter taught that "Baptism ... now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

**4. Baptism puts one into Christ.** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). "Into Christ," indicates being in His possession and enjoying His spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

**5. Baptism is when we receive a new life.** "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). When one decides to become God's child, his conversion resembles the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Just as Christ died, so one dies to his old-self. Just as Jesus was buried, so he is buried in the waters of baptism. Just as Jesus rose from dead, when he comes out of the water, he rises to walk in a newness of life.

Bear in mind that baptism is not the only thing that gives one salvation. It is administered after one hears the good news with a response of faith (Acts 8:37), repentance (Acts 2:38) and confession (Acts 8:37). Yet it is at the moment of baptism that one becomes a child of God.

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## You Be with Christ

The expression "Christ be with you" is used frequently in the New Testament. But it is not enough to think only of Christ being with us; we must also be with Him.

**We Must Be Crucified with Him.** One cannot be with Christ until he deals with self. Paul described this relationship with Him in Romans 6:6. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." He again speaks of this in Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

**We Must Be Buried with Him.** The conversion process culminates in burial. "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). The same passage also affirms that we are raised with Him.

**We Live with Him.** It should be obvious that if we have died with Him, have been buried with Him, and raised with Him, that we should live with Him. Paul described his life as a Christian by saying, "And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Consider also these words - "For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him" (2 Timothy 2:11).

**We Suffer with Him.** "For if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him" (2 Timothy 2:12). Peter describes our suffering as being "partakers of Christ's sufferings" (1 Peter 4:13).

**We Shall Be Glorified with Him.** Note His words to the Asian saints who were suffering. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Revelation 3:21).

It is important that Christ is with us. It is equally important that we are with Him.

## Action, or Lack of

*"Give me the ready hand rather than the ready tongue."* - Giuseppe Garibaldi

For years we have heard the old cliché that, "Actions speak louder than words." In the church we seek to encourage the brethren to put their Christianity into action. Yet, the struggle for activity remains.

Considering the scope of sermons we have heard over the years, one would think that the church would be very active. We seek to give the reminder that Jesus did to His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20). "And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Perhaps the best text on this subject comes from James. Be warned, it is hard hitting. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25).

James uses the word "doer" three times in this short text. And even closes verse 25 with an action word. The concern focuses on a person getting to a state where they are not a "forgetful hearer." It is interesting that James says that a person can deceive themselves. This applies to one who only is proficient in hearing the Word of God spoken, or in reading, or studying Scripture. This makes us realize that it is possible to absorb what God has to say without ever putting a single thing into action.

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### Ten Reasons Why Folks Attend Bible Study

1. They love the Lord.
2. They love the Word, the Bible.
3. They love to study the Bible with others.
4. They love the church of the Lord.
5. They love to see the church grow.
6. They love their own souls.
7. They love the souls of others.
8. They love to do good.
9. They love to see people saved.
10. They love the fellowship of the Lord's people.