

IS IT LOVE?

Bill and Steve are discussing the possibility of love. "I've thought I was in love three times," Bill says.

"Thought?" Steve asks. "What do you mean?"

"Three years ago, I cared very deeply for a woman who wanted nothing to do with me," Bill says.

"Wasn't that love?" Steve asked.

"No, that was obsession," Bill explains. "Then two years ago, I cared very deeply for an attractive woman who didn't understand me."

"Wasn't that love?" asks Steve.

"No, that was lust," Bill replies. "And just last year, I met a woman while I was on a cruise. She was gorgeous, intelligent, a great conversationalist and had a super sense of humor. Everywhere I followed her on that ship, I would get a very strange sensation in the pit of my stomach."

"Well, wasn't that love," asks Steve.

"No. That was motion sickness!" Bill replies.



THE PROPOSAL

A college senior took his new girlfriend to a football game. The young couple found seats in the crowded stadium and were watching the action. A substitute was put into the game, and as he was running onto the field to take his position, the boy said to his girlfriend, "Take a good look at that fellow. I expect him to be our best man next year." His girlfriend snuggled closer to him and said, "That's the strangest way I ever heard of for a fellow to propose to a girl. Regardless of how you said it, I accept."



THE PERFECT PURCHASE

"Where did you get the new hat? he asked her.

"Don't worry, dear. It didn't cost a thing. It was marked down from \$20 to \$10. So, I bought it with the \$10 I saved."



WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW...

A couple, just married, received tickets to a new show along with a cryptic notation, "Guess who" on the tickets. They went to the play. When they returned, all their wedding presents were gone, and another note was left: "Now you know!"



THE DATING GAME

Bill asked Will why he was dating Melanie. Will responded by explaining she was different than other girls. She was willing to go out with him!

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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February 2026

 **GOD,**
I praise you for
the victorious joy that
awaits in every situation
I am facing. You are truly
awesome!
I Love You!

What's inside...

- Better to Remain Silent
- Something to Think About
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- Is It Love?
- The Proposal
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Showers of Blessing

Each day there are showers of blessings sent from the Father above, For God is a great, lavish giver, and there is no end to His love. His grace is more than sufficient, His mercy is boundless and deep, His infinite blessings are countless - and all this we're given to keep. If we but seek God and find Him and ask for a bounteous measure of this wholly immeasurable offering from God's inexhaustible treasure. For no matter how big our dreams are, God's blessings are infinitely more, For always God's giving is greater than what we are asking for.

~ Helen Steiner Rice

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

~ Philippians 4:19



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Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "It is God who wants Himself to be loved, not in order to gain any reward for Himself but to give to those who love Him an eternal reward - namely Himself, the object of their love." ~ Augustine

BETTER TO REMAIN SILENT

It's not easy to say the right thing on the spur of the moment. We can sympathize with the chap who met an old friend after many years.

"How's your wife," he asked.

"She's in heaven," his friend replied.

"Oh, I'm sorry," stammered the chap. Then realizing that both his friend and his wife were believers, he made another attempt, saying, "I'm glad." Still, this seemed worse than before, so he blurted, "Well, what I really mean is, I'm surprised."



Something to Think About...

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ~ Matthew 6:33

How will we use the days and the time our merciful Lord God has placed in our hands? Where do we go, to whom do we look, to find the way past our hurt, our struggles and deepest longings? Do we simply ignore them or wish them away? Will we waste the precious minutes we're given and squander them away? Will the imprint of our lives leave nothing behind within the sands of time?

Matthew 6:33 is a familiar verse to many, often correctly in reference to the gain of material wealth. Certainly, Jesus clearly warns against the sin of living for the things of this life. But just as Jesus points out the sad consequences of covetousness and idolatry, our search for affection, attention, and affirmation of our feelings in all the wrong places through all the wrong motivations will leave us empty, distrustful and withdrawn.

Just as enslavement to material things will destroy us, building our value, our worth, through the ideal of others will leave us at best, disappointed. The most well-meaning of us will let others down, even through we don't want to. Remember when Moses descended from His mountain experience with God, carrying the Ten Commandments for God's chosen people. What he found at the foot of the mountain was revelry and pagan worship – and it was led by his own brother, Aaron, who had accepted the task of making the golden calf. How heart-breaking it must have been to Moses! Jesus experienced betrayal from His closest friends – Peter denied Him three times; Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. And Jesus' own half-brothers and sisters couldn't accept that He was God's Son fulfilling God's purpose, trying to seize Him, thinking He was out of His mind (Mark 3:21). Even the scribes and Pharisees failed to accept Him and, in the end, perpetrated His death on the cross at Calvary.

One of the keys to experiencing God's provision is to prioritize our relationship with Him. In Matthew 6:33, we're encouraged to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness so that we have a health perspective

of the one who truly loves us and has promised to never leave us – and who never fails to keep His promises. This is a reminder that when we put God at the center of our lives, everything else will fall into place – our material needs, our physical wellbeing and our emotional and relational needs. Seeking God first means looking to Him for guidance, trusting in His promises, pursuing the moral truths of the Scriptures, and allowing Him to direct our paths. As we cultivate this relationship, we're assured that God will provide us with all we need, in ways that we may never have imagined. Our hearts become content as we focus on His kingdom rather than our circumstances.

Do we rely on human means to have our multi-faceted needs met; have we fallen into the trap of what the commercials would have us believe satisfies our longings? They certainly have one thing right – we have not been made to flounder and flail about helplessly; we've been created in the very image of our unfailing God. But what the ads of today fail to grasp is that our needs are not met by the next "new and improved" to hit the shelves but in Jesus who offers you healing, health, wholeness, and true satisfaction.

The beautiful truth is that God delights in giving to His children. Whether it's love, hope, strength, or material needs, we can trust that His supply is plentiful. This abundance encourages us to be generous with others, as we reflect on the generosity we have received from God. When we are aware of God's abundant supply, we can share freely without fear of scarcity. His overflowing blessings inspire us to live in gratitude, reminding us to recognize and appreciate the provisions we already have in our lives.

In his later epistle, the apostle Peter wrote, *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness"* ~ 2 Peter 1:3. It's not only Peter that reminds us of God's faithful care for us. God's Word repeatedly instructs us not to be anxious because He already knows what we need. Allowing God's peace to fill our hearts as we see Him first in Christ, not letting worry dictate our lives, we focus on God's provision and His faithfulness. Each time worry creeps in, we can remind ourselves of the truth; God will provide for us just as He always has.

Mark Your Calendar!

Feb 1st – Communion

Feb 14th – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

163rd Anniversary Service

Sunday, February 16th @ 11 a.m.

Special Guests

Monteith Gospel Group

Feb 22nd – Annual meeting

Message Series

Jesus –

Revealed in the Names of God

(starts Sunday 22 Feb 26)