

SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a minister were on a Sunday afternoon flight on a small, private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they too had better jump, and then bailed out. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining.

The doctor grabbed one, saying, "I'm a doctor, I save lives," and jumped.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The minister looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You're young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live your life well."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the minister and said, "Not to worry, sir. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my backpack."

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

There's an old saying that "I don't know that what I said is what I meant". That certainly holds true for an announcement in a church bulletin which read, "Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last Saturday in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."

GOD WILL PROVIDE

A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents. Her mother told her father to find out about the fiancé. The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk. "So, what are your plans?" the father asked the young man.

'I am a biblical scholar,' he replied.

The father said. "But what will you do to provide for my daughter?"

'I will study,' the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.'

'How will you provide a home, and food?' 'And children?' 'How will you support children?' asked the father.

The young man replied, 'God will provide for us.'

Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, Honey?'

The father answered, 'He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God!'

LATE FOR CHURCH

A child was late to Sunday school for the first time. The teacher asked them if anything was wrong.

"No," the child said, "I wanted to go fishing, but my dad told me I needed to go to church."

The teacher was impressed. They asked the child if the father had explained, why it was important to go to church instead of going fishing.

"Yes, ma'am," the child said. "It's because there's not enough bait for the both of us."

First Baptist Church Strathroy

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



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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"The LORD will guide you...you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail"
(Isaiah 58:11)

What's inside...

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- Something to Talk About
- Mark Your Calendar
- Smartest People in the World
- What did You Say?
- God will Provide
- Late for Church

Today's view - "Of course I believe in free will! What choice do I have?"



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Sundays 10:30 a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as everything is."

~ Albert Einstein

He Hideth My Soul

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Saviour to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

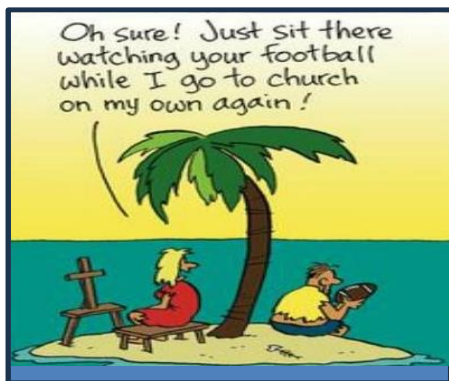
A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord –
He taketh my burden away.
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved;
He giveth me strength as my day.

With numberless blessings each moment He
crowns;
And filled with His fullness divine;
I sing in my rapture, "O glory to God
For such a Redeemer as mine!"

When clothed in His brightness, transported I
rise

To meet Him in clouds of the sky;
He perfect salvation, His wonderful love
I'll shout with the millions on high!

By Fanny Crosby



Test your Biblical trivia...

1. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
2. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
3. Who was the greatest comedian in scripture?

Answers...
1. Ruthless; 2. Noah – as floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation; 3. Samson – He brought down the house



Something to Think About

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my body yearns for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1).

This summer has seen its share of dry, hot days. The lawn is more tumbleweed than grass. The other day we had a heavy rain and the soil drank it up quickly. We're experiencing a dry and weary land. But it's more than a physical occurrence; we're hungry and thirsty spiritually in our land today. So many find themselves distant from God, struggling to grow spiritually, searching to fill the void in their lives. Perhaps you are one who has experienced the burdens of life press in and feel discouraged. You are searching for God "in a dry and weary land where there is no water" in a time of spiritual dryness.

Sometimes, if we're honest and search our hearts, we recognize we've distanced ourselves from God, attempting to live for ourselves instead of living for God. We can remedy the time of dryness by confessing our sin to God as the apostle John encouraged, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). John is not referring to us bringing an extensive shopping list of all our sins before God. Rather, it begins with an attitude – a broken and contrite heart – recognizing a need for God at the center of your life.

Sometimes our days of being spiritually parched arise from our physical, mental, or emotional pain. We read in 1 Kings 19, that after Elijah had defeated the many prophets of Baal, he ran away in fear of Queen Jezebel who promised she would put him to death. He was physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausted, unable to stand up to the fight. Yet God came and gave Elijah sustenance and rest and then used that time of weakness to work in Elijah's life in a new way. God does the same for us today, if we will draw near to Him. That's exactly what He promises, saying, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Our drawing near to God begins through our worship experience *with* God. David was experiencing a time of spiritual dryness when he wrote Psalm 63 yet was able to transform his wilderness experience into a time of worship and reflection on the goodness of God. Though he remained physically in the desert, hungry and thirsty, his deepest desire remained spiritual rather than focused on his physical needs. With his whole being – mind, body and soul – David yearned for God's satisfying presence.

We too must break out of our spiritual dryness by trusting in God's love; we must choose to rejoice and praise God for His faithfulness at all times in all circumstances because of His unchanging, everlasting spiritual truth; remembering God's goodness in our past.

Not only must we obey God's command to draw near but seek Him through His Word, daily turning to Him for His instruction to us. And we must let God's Spirit work in us, satisfying us in Christ who is the Bread of life, and the water of life by His Spirit in us. Only then can those who hunger and thirst for the righteousness of spiritual food and living water be filled.

How did David develop this spiritual appetite? It wasn't in the desert but in the sanctuary. He had found great delight in going into the presence of God regularly, contemplating the plans of God, seeking Him with all his heart before the desert experience came to him. So too, it is our regular worship that prepares us for the crisis experiences of life. David had acquired a routine that included the God who was over all creation into his daily life. He understood the way to overcome the spiritual dryness was to pursue the way that Jeremiah would later write about, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Because David had seen God's power and glory in His sanctuary, and had experienced God's presence in his daily life, spending time with God and fellow believers, he was able to see God's presence and trust in God's goodness in the wilderness. At the end of Psalm 13, another time when David struggled in his circumstances, we see in whom he has placed his trust: "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me" (Psalm 13:5-6). This promises that what life does to us depends on what life finds in us. Only if we have Jesus Christ as our Saviour and receive His Spirit are we equipped through the deep love of God to be established with a lasting desire to please Him.

Mark Your Calendar!

August 2nd – Communion Sunday

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

Wednesdays

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room) 1:30 pm

Messages this month...



Biblical Truths We Stand On