

WHAT TO DO WITH FRUITCAKE

A family had received a fruitcake from their new next-door neighbour at Christmas. However, the fruitcake was dry and flavourless such that the family couldn't swallow it. By New Year's Day, they regretfully threw it out.



Wanting to be kind and yet truthful when thanking their neighbour, they sent a note thanking her that read, "We appreciate your gift, and let us assure you that a fruitcake like that does not last long in our home".

SUNDAY'S JUSTICE



Sunday morning, a man is pulled over by police for speeding. As the officer asked for his license and registration, passing motorists would slow down then honk and wave.

After the twelfth driver passed by, honking and waving, the officer asked the speeder what was going on.

The driver told him, "I'm the pastor at the church a mile up the road. That's where I was going when you stopped me. My congregation recognized me. The officer smiled and tore up the ticket. "I think justice is served and that you've paid your debt to society" he proclaimed.

PERFECT TIMING



Looking for that perfect time of day that's the same whether you're arriving or leaving? If you think about it, because of the word's spelling, NOON is perfect!



SPIRITUAL CLUTTER! ~ anything (sports, leisure, tv, work, even family) that keeps us from time with God!

Preparing for January...

Q: What's a New Years resolution?

A: A to-do list... for the first week of January.

Q: What did the chimney resolve to do for the new year?

A: Stop smoking.

Q: What's for breakfast on really cold January days?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: What's the easiest way to keep your New Year's resolution to read more?

A: Put the subtitles on your TV.

First Baptist Church Strathroy

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



GETTING CONNECTED

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"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

~ Proverbs 23:18



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

Just One Request



Dear Master for this coming year

Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing —

I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.

And thus, the year I now begin
A happy year will be —
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

~ Unknown Author



Sunday, 11 a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "The Christian life is not adding Jesus to one's own way of life but renouncing that personal way of life for His and being willing to pay whatever cost that may require." ~ John MacArthur

THE DOCTOR'S VISIT

The Jones' had arranged for doctor visits to their home due to the onset of health issues with Mrs. Jones. When she suddenly became quite ill in the middle of the night, they called and the on-call doctor was dispatched. New to the Jones', the doctor went in to see Mrs. Jones. After just moments in with the patient, the doctor stepped out of the sickroom to ask Mr. Jones for a corkscrew. Given the tool, he disappeared but several minutes later, after many grunts and groans had come from the room, he was back demanding a pair of pliers. Again, he disappeared into the room, only to call out, "A chisel and mallet, quick!" Mr. Jones was frantic, and, unable to stand it any longer, asked, "Doctor! What is her trouble?"

"Don't know yet," was the doctor's reply. "I can't get my medical bag open!"



Something to Think About...



"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your justice as the noonday" ~ Psalm 37:5-6.

My prayer for each of you, my friends, as we begin a new chapter in our lives, as the calendar turns a page and begins the New Year, is that we will find a renewed sense of commitment to the Lord, trusting in Him in all things. We've experienced the joy of the Christmas season, hopefully having been reminded of the wonderful gift of the baby in Bethlehem. But will we also see the Saviour born that first Christmas, follow the Christ who opened to us the Kingdom of God and receive Him as the Light and the Way for us to know God?

If you would "commit your way to the LORD"; "cast all your anxieties on Him, knowing He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7) this year, you will simply be responding to Jesus' invitation to, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-20). Our Lord doesn't offer this blessing to take our burdens so that we can be irresponsible, but so we can serve Him better. He cares for us so much that, knowing without His care, we stumble and fail, He reaches out and holds us up.

So then, you might think, its all about me and Jesus – without any cares in the world! God will take care of me! Absolutely, but that can lead us into great trouble. Author and Pastor, Francis Frangipane, puts it this way: "To those whose attitude is just Jesus and me I say, it is wonderful you found Jesus. But you cannot truly have Jesus and simultaneously not do what He says. The outgrowth of love and faith in Christ is love and faith like Christ's, which means we are committed, even as He is, to His people." Commitment then means

more than knowing that Jesus came as a baby born in a manger, more than that He walked on earth, lived and died some two thousand years ago. Commitment to the Lord requires sacrifice; it requires that we place the needs of those around us over our own needs; and it means that we seek first the Kingdom of God and seek to serve Him always.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "You never hear Jesus say in Pilate's judgment hall one word that would let you imagine that He was sorry that He had undertaken so costly a sacrifice for us. When His hands are pierced, when He is parched with fever, His tongue dried up like a shard of pottery, when His whole body is dissolved into the dust of death, you never hear a groan or a shriek that looks like Jesus is going back on His commitment."

So, then, what is your plan for this New Year? It lies before you untouched, unscared without either failure or success. It lies ready to be grasped and used to bring glory to God, to walk with the Lord and follow His example. It's looking beyond the simple invitation to see the commands of God! The command to "come" because true salvation is found only in a person, Jesus Christ. It's open to all who are exhausted, burdened, ready to be blessed. And we're invited to "take" Christ's offer by faith, led by Him for what living really means, finding in life that deeper surrender and obedience, 'yoked' to Him as He offers a way that is tailor-made for you. Finally, it leads to us yielding to Christ that we might "learn" from Him. As we trust Him more, we find a deeper peace, life is simplified, and unified around Jesus. This year, we'll discover that His righteousness and justice work out through us. So, as Woodrow Kroll writes, "When it comes to God's commands, the issue is not clarity; it's commitment."

Mark your calendar!

Jan 1st - Communion Sunday – 11 a.m.

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer
(FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

16 -22 January 2023

Prayer booklets available

Message Series

Realities of Experiencing God

Knowing and Doing God's Will

You're Invited!

Join us at **First Baptist Church Strathroy** on **Sunday, February 12th** at 11 a.m. featuring Gospel group...

THE CHAPELAIRES

Refreshments follow the service | Free-will offering received

EVERYONE WELCOME!

