

THE COUNTRY PARSON

When the country parson bought a horse, the dealer assured him the one he selected was a perfect choice. "This horse was raised in a religious environment. So, you'll have to remember, instead of 'giddy-up', you've got to say 'Praise the Lord' and rather than "Whoa" to make it stop, you've got to say, 'Amen'. Got it?"



The parson paid for the horse assuring the dealer he understood, mounted, gave the horse a cheery 'Praise the Lord' and cantered off in the direction of his church thrilled with his purchase.

When the parson noticed the road ahead was washed out, leaving a chasm 200 meters deep, he panicked, forgetting the instructions, crying "whoa" several times before remembering and hollering, "Amen". The horse slid to a stop a short distance from the brink of disaster. Then, in thankful relief, the parson exclaimed, "Praise the Lord!"

A TIMELY REMINDER

A 12-year-old boy stood waiting beside the clock counter while the clerk waited on all the adult customers. Finally, the clerk turned to the youngster, who made his purchase and hurried to the curb, where his father waited impatiently in the car.



"What took you so long, son?" the father asked.

"The man waited on everybody in the store before me," the boy replied. "But I got even."

"How'd you do that?" his dad asked.

"I wound and set all the alarm clocks while I had to wait" the young man explained. "It's going to get mighty noisy in there at 4 pm!"

A SEWABLE OFFENCE

A young man came home from the office to find his bride sobbing convulsively. "I feel terrible," she told him. "I was pressing your suit and I burned a hole right in the seat of your trousers."



"Forget it," consoled her husband. "Remember that I've an extra pair of pants with that suit."

"Yes, and lucky you have," said the woman, drying her eyes. "I used them to patch the hole."



THE MARRIED LIFE

"Hey Sam," exclaimed Jim, seeing his buddy after years away.

"You end up marrying that girl you went with or are you still doing your own cooking, ironing and cleaning?"

"Yep!" replied Sam.

First Baptist Church Strathroy

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



GETTING CONNECTED

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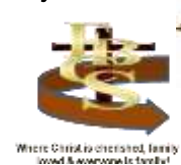
February 2023



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God loved you so much that He gave His own Son to die so that you can have life with Him!



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Sunday, 11a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Because of His justice He cannot dismiss your sin, but because of His love He cannot dismiss you. So, in an act which stunned the heavens, He punished Himself on the cross for your sins. God's justice and love are equally honoured. And you, God's creation, are forgiven." ~ Max Lucado

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.



His gift was to become a man,

So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true --
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Saviour, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

The solely pressed newlywed sought valiantly to console his bride, who was crying on the sofa while not digging himself deeper in trouble with words he regretted ever uttering.

"Darling," he implored, "believe me. I never would suggest that you were a terrible cook. I merely pointed out that our garbage disposal has developed an ulcer."



LOVE UNLIMITED

"I wonder if my husband will love me when my hair is gray," the woman mused to her hair stylist.

"Why not?" the stylist retorted, "he's loved you through three shades already!"



Something to Think About...

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters...you can't serve God and money" - Matthew 6:21-24

It's been said, "Love is not finding someone to live with. It's finding someone you can't live without." I can't think of a better example of that than of the love shown to us by our heavenly Father. I don't know how I could ever live without Him since He became Lord of my life! I Love Him! It's easy to say 'I love you', harder to really mean it, and hardest of all to continually demonstrate it. But while we were hostile to him, ignoring him at best, and in total disobedience to him, God sent his own son, Jesus to take our place, pay for our wayward behaviour and make the way for us to have fellowship with the Creator of the universe. Now that is love.

When Jesus taught that we were to seek treasure in heaven rather than storing up that which is so easily lost, stolen or destroyed here on earth, He understood that we needed the lasting treasure of God in our lives. He knew the pain and suffering that came with temporal treasures. He recognized the downward spiral that chasing after money, fame, position and authority left us with. More than 300 years ago, *minister and author* Matthew Henry wrote, "Christ counsels to make our best things the joys and glories of the other world, those things not seen which are eternal, and to place our happiness in them." As obvious though as this maxim is, how sad that so many of the professed followers of Jesus disregard its implications.

If like me, you are a fan of the annual classic, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens you will know the cost to Ebenezer Scrooge of the pursuit of worldly treasure. As he is taken back to his younger days, Scrooge's wife is giving back the ring given when love still bloomed in Scrooge's heart, "I have seen your nobler aspiration fall of one by one, until the master passion - Gain - engrosses you" she tells him, then, as the viewer's heart breaks with hers, says, "If there had been no understanding between us, would you still seek me out and try to win me now, a dowryless girl with nothing but myself to bring to a marriage?" Truly we see the impact of greed on a heart and a life.

On Valentine's Day later this month millions will present flowers, chocolates and cards to their sweethearts. February is also known here in Canada as Heart Month, a time for people to make a commitment to getting physically heart healthy. But what about our

spiritual health? How can we celebrate 'valentines' to pursue a healthy relationship with Jesus? This year, will you let your riches, your treasure, be that which is heavenly, those habits of grace, humility, surrender and trust which will bring you to heaven, to pursue "*better things - things that belong to salvation*" (Hebrews 6:9)? Would you willingly set aside the treasures of this world, "*giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints*"? (Colossians 1:12).

We're so accustomed to separating our lives into what is 'spiritual' and the pragmatic, 'material' concerns of our lives. But Jesus makes no such distinction. His teaching demonstrates that, if we are to have the true righteousness of Christ in our lives, we must allow God's Spirit to lead us and fill us so that we have the proper attitude at all times toward material possessions. That doesn't mean that legitimate wealth is evil. God made all things and His Word tells us He knows our needs including food, clothing, housing, etc. And God saw what He made and declared all things good (Genesis 1:31). Jesus, though, warns against living for the things of this life, calling it sin! He reminds us of the sad consequences of idolatry and covetousness. We can't live two lives. Invariably, sin takes over when we give it free rein in our hearts. "What a man loves," said Martin Luther, "that is his God. For he carries it in his heart, he goes about with it night and day, he sleeps and wakes with it; be it what it may." Materialism enslaves not only our hearts but takes possession of the mind and the will. Let us beware of what holds us, lest we join the many, within the church, as well as without, who flatter themselves that all is right between them and God, while their closest attention, anxiety, zeal, and time are exhausted upon these earthly pursuits.

Our worldly possessions, acquisitions, and pursuits are always corruptible, vulnerable, and temporary when we make them our God. We chase them until they capture us. When the heart loves material things and puts earthly gain above heavenly investment, the result is always a tragic and eternal loss. Instead of being spiritually enriched, we settle for impoverished souls, darkness within, isolation from God. We need not fear wealth as God provides, but do not make it your God!

Mark your calendar!

Feb 5th - Communion Sunday - 11 a.m.

Feb 12th - **FBCS Anniversary service** - 11 a.m.

Featuring The Chapelaires

Feb 19 -25 - Annual Report and vote via telephone canvas for members

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series

Realities of Experiencing God

Knowing and Doing God's Will

Come and Join Us in Celebration!

Sunday, February 12th at 11 a.m.

for our 160th anniversary service featuring -

The Chapelaires

Refreshments follow the service | Free-will offering received

EVERYONE WELCOME!

