

The Wedding Cake...

A Baker was asked to print 1 John 4:18 on an older couple's wedding cake. He forgot the "1", and instead printed John 4:18. 1st John 4:18 (ESV) reads "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." John 4:18 (ESV) on the other hand reads "For you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband." **Oops!**



You Might be a Baptist...

1. **If** you think God's presence is always strongest in the back three pews.
2. **If** you think John the Baptist founded the Baptist movement.
3. **If** you think "Amazing Grace" is the national anthem.
4. **If** your first response is, "We've never done it this way before."
5. **If** your definition of "fellowship" has something to do with food.
6. **If** you honestly believe the Apostle Paul spoke King James English.
7. **If** you think worship service music has to be older than you are.
8. **If** you think Jesus actually used Welch's grape juice and saltine crackers for the Passover supper.
9. **If** every time you pass a lake, a stream or a pool, you think of dunking your neighbour.
10. **If** when your wife takes you shopping at a men's apparel store you know that a new suit means you'll be in church on Sunday.



Turning the Knife...

While assembling furniture, Liz asked her friend's six-year-old son, Ricky, to bring her a screwdriver. 'Do you want a 'Daddy' screwdriver or a 'Mummy' screwdriver?' Ricky politely inquired. Confused by the question, Liz responded with, 'Bring me a 'Mummy' screwdriver.' Ricky returned and handed her a butter knife.



Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

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



GETTING CONNECTED

Mt. Brydges Baptist Church

22243 Allan Rd, Mt Brydges, Ontario N0L 1W0 519-317-8659
mtbrydgesbaptist.ca, Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

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The Blessings of Spring

There are many blessings, that each new Spring brings you can see it bloom about and hear the song it sings.

With winter's bleakness over,
And brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
And their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
Grace in our hearts will grow.

He melts the snowy covers,
And sends the refreshing rain
Sprinkling us with His mercies
To heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,
To shed upon us a new light
And the real blessing of Spring
Is keeping Jesus in our sight!

~ Deborah Ann Belka

22243 Allan Road (@Adelaide Road) South of Mt Brydges

Join us each Sunday for Worship...

3 p.m. worship and praise

Thot: "God wants us to love Him above all else, God wants us to glorify Him in all we do, and God doesn't want us to be enslaved to anything besides righteousness." ~ Matt Moore

If it's obvious to a child...

A man had a habit of grumbling at the food each time his wife placed it before him at family meals. Then he would faithfully ask the blessing.



One day after his usual combination complaint and prayer, his little girl asked, "Daddy, does God hear us when we pray?"

"Why, of course," he replied. "He hears us every time we pray."

She paused a moment then asked, "Does he hear everything we say the rest of the time?"

"Yes, dear, every word," he replied, encouraged that he had inspired his daughter to be curious about spiritual matters. He was quickly humbled, however, as his little girl asked, "**Then which does God believe?**"



Something to Think About...

"Rise up, my beloved, my fair one, and come away. For the winter is past...the flowers are springing up, and the time of singing birds has come, even the cooing of turtledoves. The fig trees are budding, and the grapevines are in blossom. How delicious they smell! Yes, spring is here!" [Song of Songs 2:10-13]

We see God as our eternal King pursuing the heart of all who'd love Him in return. Think about it – God's heart is pursuing **US** in the midst of springtime. We need to listen for the voice of our King calling. We need to "come away with Him" during this season in which we witness new birth in nature around us. We need to let Him pour His promises into our lives and cause us too to grow.

Most of us have regrets of some kind; no one has an unblemished past. While this can hijack our lives if left unchecked, we realize we can't go back and change what we've previously done but must continuously reach forward, trusting in Jesus to guide us on the righteous highway of God. Perhaps Paul agonized over his treatment of Stephen as he stood by, holding the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen to death. We do know Peter wept and was sorry for his cowardly behaviour, abandoning Jesus, denying he even knew Him when Jesus was facing the worst day of his life. Nothing either man did afterward could erase their past, put God forgave them, raised them up in newness of life, forgot their treatment of Him and gave them a fresh chance. Each of them, each of us, can only live our lives

well here in the present thanking our heavenly Father for His forgiveness and His strengthening grace to persevere.

I think that's what springtime reminds me of mostly. Springtime brings a renewal of God's wonderful promises, confirming in us a new identity building on His guarantee that "*if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!*" [2 Corinthians 5:17] Therefore, rather than being held by the past, let us refocus our attention on our future vision with Christ even while reviving our worship and reverence for our Lord as we walk with Him today. Let's allow the Lord to lead us into new beginnings; let us watch as new shoots blossom in our pursuit of a deeper relationship with God, an intimate relationship with our Lord. When your heart is touched by our Father's heart, it will change you. It's like a new DNA forms in you – a new vision for your life birthing just as flowers within you bringing you into a radically new outlook for your life as you actively pursue God for all He's worth, putting Him first above all things.

The Prophet Isaiah captured the image of God's compassion, writing, "*See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.*" [Isaiah 42:9] And again "*I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.*" [Isaiah 43:19] If we allow God to reveal Himself to us, to build something new within us we can find ourselves liberated from regret and shame as we keep moving forward. As we walk with God we can experience the intensification of His presence, His Spirit, guiding and directing us. We'll sense God's holy purpose for our lives with greater clarity as well as increased comfort. God's waiting, ready to receive You into His amazing fellowship.

He's setting up His garden that in its time will produce wonderful fruit. Never consider yourself too old for this transforming experience. Don't let yourselves become worried here early in the season. Don't get tired of doing well for Jesus – you'll reap well if only you don't faint. God will bring in the fruit – not sour, not rotten, and always right on time.

Mark your Calendar...

Sunday April 3rd – Communion
Spring Series...

Love: God's Calling Card!

Mondays 3:30 – 5 p.m.

- Bible Study on Parkhouse

April 23rd - MLHA Assembly @
Central BC 9a.m. CBOQ guests

Sunday April 24th MBBC 149TH
Anniversary – Chris Jorgensen