

THE HIGH LIFE?

A married couple, trying to live up to a snobbish lifestyle, went to a New Year's Eve party where the conversation turned to Mozart. "Absolutely brilliant...lovely...oh, a fine fellow...a genius, that Mozart."

Wanting to join the conversation, the woman casually remarked, "Ah, Mozart. You're so right. I love him. Only this morning I saw him getting on the No. 5 bus going to Coney Island."

There was a sudden hush and everyone looked at her. Her husband was shattered. He pulled her away, "We're leaving now. Get your coat and come."

In the car as they drove home, he kept muttering to himself. Finally, his wife turned to him, "You're angry about something."

"Oh, really? You noticed it?" he sneered. "My goodness! I've never been so embarrassed in my life! You saw Mozart take the No. 5 bus to Coney Island? Don't you know the No. 5 bus doesn't go to Coney Island?"



GOING OUT ON NEW YEARS EVE

Late night on New Years Eve a Kansas cyclone hit a farmhouse just as the farmer and his wife had gotten into bed. It lifted off the roof, picked up the bed with them in it, and set them down gently over in the next county.

The wife began to cry. "Don't be scared Mary," her husband told her. "We're not hurt and the house can be rebuilt."

Mary continued to cry. "I'm not scared," she responded between sobs. "I'm happy 'cause this is the first time in 14 years we've been out together for New Years Eve."



A DOCTOR'S RATIONALE

A famous doctor was being interviewed by the press. Looking to spice things up a little, one reporter asked if the doctor had ever made any serious mistakes.

"Well, yes," he sighed. "I once cured a billionaire."

"How was that a mistake?" the reporter asked, searching for further explanation. The doctor slowly shook his head and wearily responded, "I did it in one visit!"



NEIGHBOURS

"Dad, I think the Browns nest door are angry with us."

"Why is that?" his dad asked.

"They're probably mad because our dog can retrieve the newspaper and theirs can't."

"How could you possibly know that? We don't even subscribe to the paper."

"Yeah, that's probably got something to do with it too."



First Baptist Church Strathroy

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



GETTING CONNECTED

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Training for Life

Athletes train their bodies before they run a race.

We also train our bodies and minds as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us by His grace.

This is a marathon of endurance as we follow Christ to become like Him, have a humble servant's heart, and ask forgiveness for our sin.

Use our time and talent to bless others giving God the glory,

Pray without ceasing, be quick to listen, slow to speak and know when to say I'm sorry.

Jesus helps us when we are burdened and He will give us rest;

He is in control, patient and kind, so we submit to Him and offer our best.

Even though we don't know and may wonder what lies ahead...

Remember that God walks with you and He will guide your steps instead.

We should be ready for His return which could happen any day;

Put Jesus first, spread God's Word, and be a positive example with every word you say.

by Kim Lang



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"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

~ Psalm 37:4



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Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Let us be exhorted to exalt God alone, and ascribe to Him all the glory." ~ Jonathon Edwards

THE PROSPECTIVE BUYER

Looking to buy a home in an exclusive subdivision, the prospective buyer had to appear before the neighbourhood association's screening committee.

"Do you have small children?" was the first question. He answered, "No."

"Outdoor pets?" Again, he answered, "No."

"Do you play any musical instrument at home?" He shook his head negatively.

"Do you host personal or business guests who might arrive in more than two vehicles at a time?"

He answered with a firm "No" but by now the prospect had decided the restrictions weren't for him. He held up his hand, rose from his chair, and told the panel: "We may as well call off the deal right now. You need to be aware that I sneeze on the average of two or three times a week!"



Something to Think About...



"Flee from the love of money, the craving for the things of this world that lead us away from the faith; pursue instead righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness." [from 1 Timothy 6:9-11]

When aspiring Hollywood actor, and now popular Christian speaker, Bruce Marchiano landed the role of Jesus in *The Gospel of Matthew*, he could never have imagined the awe-inspiring experience of walking in the footsteps of the Saviour.

To walk with Jesus requires we submit ourselves to who He is, to immerse ourselves in the essence of His character, to discover the impact of His choices and priorities, to follow His every action and word and make them our own. In other words, we need to set aside all pursuits which keep us from discovering what it is that lies at the root of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

The first thing we learn is to flee from anything that would thwart our dependance on the Lord. The desire for wealth is sin! Money is a tool to be used for the Lord; its unmitigated pursuit, on the other hand – the need to be rich – focuses our hearts on material things in order to be happy and feel successful. But such riches are a trap; they lead to bondage, not freedom. They lead to additional lusts, unsatisfied desires, plunging us into ruin and destruction (1 Timothy 6:9 NIV).

There are times when fleeing is anything but cowardly. Joseph fled when he was tempted by his master's wife (Genesis 39:12), and David fled when King Saul tried to kill him (1 Samuel 19:10). The word 'flee', used by Paul here in 1 Timothy, rather than literal running, refers to separating ourselves from those things that can destroy us including the drawing away from false teachers. Not only riches, but secularization, false 'truths', failing to follow Christ are all things we should flee from. When an athlete trains for the race it's not only important to consider the route to follow but to set the mind on the race

and to set aside anything that might hinder the completion of that race that lays before the runner so that they can successfully complete it.

Such behaviour today, when it comes to Christian faith, is becoming rarer and is considered by many – both in the world and the church – as being intolerant or old-fashioned rather than being held up as the basis for our Christian life. But how can we pursue Christ and be found acceptable in His sight, welcomed into the eternal kingdom of our heavenly Father, unless we mirror the life of Christ and follow His precepts?

If we are to be true servants of God, we must be prepared to take a stand against false doctrine and godless practices, and separate ourselves from such pursuits which are harmful to us. We must ensure to act on the basis of Biblical conviction rather than popular opinion, on the basis of the Spirit of God over personal prejudice or a carnal spirit where anything goes.

But by separation I don't suggest we become isolationists. Separation without positive growth is what causes isolation. We must allow Christ to cultivate in us His grace which equips us for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness in our lives so that we're known for what we propose over what we oppose.

What does such a life, mirrored on Christ, look like? Righteousness means personal integrity that is constant whether anyone is looking or not and godliness has to do with His character dwelling in us through His Holy Spirit. Because we have God in us, and God is faithful, we call on His faithfulness to be faithful, having the ability to be dependable in our walk, displaying that we "practice what we preach".

Because of God's presence and our continual pursuit of His character building in us we draw on His agape' love that sacrifices for the sake of others, reaching out in faith to save others from a way of life that leads them to despair. It seeks to give and not to gain. That brings us to the need for God's great gift – patience and endurance –

that we can stick to it when the going gets tough. It's not complacency allowing opportunities to pass us by. It's living our Christian life courageously, standing firm in faith even in the hard times, being tenacious in our efforts to reach the lost for Christ. This new year offers a plank slate on which to pursue God's wisdom for our lives and to be found ready – in service and in preparedness for His return. Can we immerse ourselves in His character and be known for whose we are this new year?

Mark Your Calendar!

Jan 7th – Communion

Jan 13th – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series



Pursuing Godly Wisdom

- Pursuing True Wisdom in our Daily Walk

All Welcome!