

SBC BULLETIN



Have you noticed that spring has sprung? Blossoms decorate our gardens, shades of pink and white on once bare branches. Soon we will see the haziness of new green leaves on maple trees and oaks. But in Perth we have spring in winter. Temperatures are under 10 most mornings and there's a definite chill in the air.

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

While we were still in the winter of our lives, God sent us a life-line, gave us new life, the opportunity to blossom - because He loved us. Have we accepted His gift of open arms?

WHEN DOES RELIGION BECOME DANGEROUS?

Religion becomes dangerous when it:

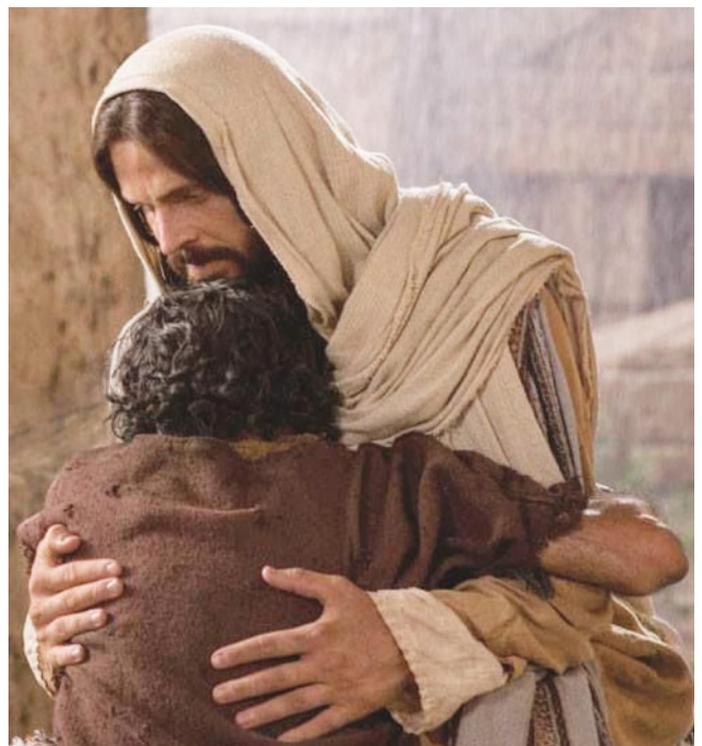
- Allows its followers to believe they are right with God without convicting them of their wrongdoings like everyone else and their continuing need for grace and mercy
- Requires its adherents to make sacrifices for their God without showing love and compassion for people who do not believe
- Celebrates those who die for their faith more than those who live by their faith
- Expect its believers to take themselves and everything else so seriously that they cannot joyfully laugh and sing about little things anymore
- Demands that the believers transform others without first being transformed themselves
- Calls its adherents to defend their God's honour by forcing others to comply with outward regulations rather than by genuine faith and love
- Celebrates when those who oppose their religion suffer damage, pain, or hurt
- Demands blind obedience
- Has no capacity to allow people to doubt and challenge its claims
- Motivates its adherents through guilt or reward rather than love and adoration

Prayer requests - health-related:

- Anik Suherianto
- Margaret Olsen
- Krina Moore
- Iris and Malcolm Sales
- Sue Moore
- Joy's great-grand-daughter

other:

- Anik, Heri, Matthew, and Michael for comfort re the loss of Anik's mother
- the finances of the church



Notices:

All church activities are open opportunities - so everyone is always welcome.

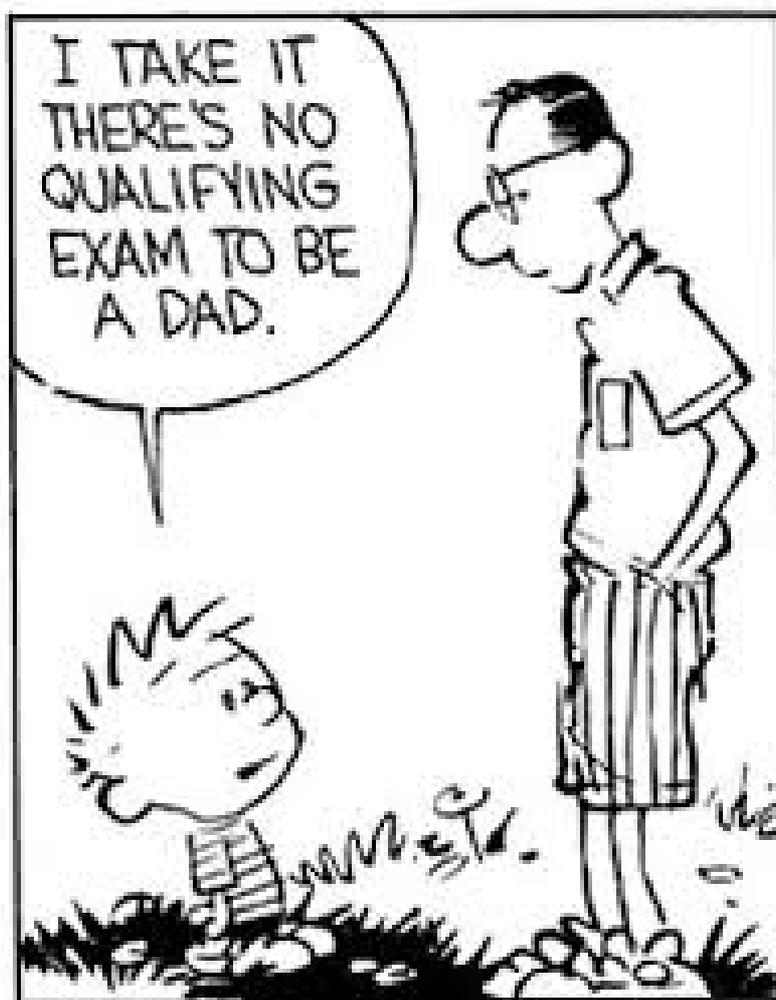
Tonight: Sundays@6

Tuesday: Craft Group between 9 and 11.30 am

Thursday 10.30 am: Mainly Music for small children & their carers

Thursday: Bible study at 7 pm at the church

Friday lunchtime: Japanese kindy outreach



NOTES

Father's forbearance
 Father's faithfulness
 Father's forgiveness
 Father's feelings
 Father's failure

LUKE 15

Once a man had two sons. 12
 The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property." So the father divided his property between his two sons.

13 Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left

for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 He had spent everything when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.

15 He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. 16 He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating,[c] but no one gave him a thing.



20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

28 "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

31 "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"