

Coop's Scoops#97 Friday September 4, 2020



Yummy, yummy, yummy I've got Peter and Tracy's veggies in my tummy!

Fresh from their garden. Talk about a time to "pause and marvel"...only I didn't....I ate most of the little grape tomatoes with not much pause at all. (They were however "marvellous"!) You

Gotta eat the big

Ones like apples!

Call to Prayer:

Sunday at 10:30 am I am hoping for maybe ten people to come to St. Thomas to pray with me for the churches in our Deanery and Diocese which are re-opening that day. Outside, on the ramp or lawn depending on numbers, masks in place, hands sanitized, about 10-15 minutes. If you need to sit, please bring a chair.



If it is pouring rain, just stay home. Or put on a yellow sou'wester and hat and look spectacular in the rain.

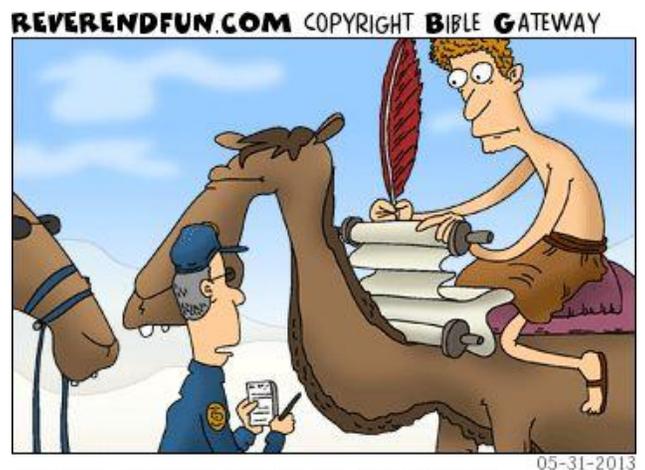
I don't have a sou'wester, but I do have a very fetching purple umbrella!

Don't forget to pray for teachers and students while at home! And for each other. Always.

Happy Labour Day weekend! If you possibly can, try to take in the Bracebridge Market on Saturday...open until 2, but not sure of start time...If you go about 11 all will be well. Masks and social distancing required of course.

The walkways at Kelvin Grove park up to the falls are beautifully paved now with now bumpy trippy places. Again a lovely idea for the weekend. I am thinking of taking a drive through Algonquin Park if the weather's good.

Story fun:



TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, SIR, AND IS AGAINST THE LAW



And from my lamb stash..... FYI, the hair salons are open again!

That's me on the left, and Tracy on the right!

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Homily:

Most of you know that I generally use the NRSV version of the Bible. Today, however, the King James Version is best. Other versions say “Do your best to” instead of “study to”, and I believe that our faith family members are indeed called to study. Not to “get approved by God” but to help what we say about God to actually be in accord with the Scriptures. With the Old and New Testaments. With God’s truth expressed as History, allegory, myth, poetry, romance, laments, and song. With Gospel, and apocalyptic writings.

When we study the Scriptures in groups or alone; in university classrooms or at kitchen tables we show that we value God enough to spend precious time getting to know more about Him. We become “workmen” who don’t need to be ashamed....who know we are doing a good job...who take pride in what we do. And we can stay that way....there is no retirement age for life-long learners ! That’s a great thought on this Labour Day weekend.

So when we are doing study, when we take the time and make the effort to learn, what is the product of our labour going to be? We will be able to “rightly divide” the Word of truth. Our minds will get improved as we exercise them to interpret Scripture textually and in context and by category. We will get more “grey” rather than black and white as we see how God’s prophets and servants used every kind of literature to proclaim truths about God. When we learn that ADAM in Hebrew actually means EARTH, and EVE actually means LIFE, we come up with the wonderful truth that All Life on this PLANET came about because of EARTH and WATER (the essential building block of LIFE). That one without the other won’t do. That God and Science are not in a boxing match. That truth is deeper than mere fact. That knowledge is more than data. Having said all that, if your own study leads you to a more literalistic viewpoint, then that also is good. You have studied and come to God for wisdom. That makes you a workman who needs not be ashamed.

Sometimes we forget that the Word of Truth does need to be rightly divided. Paralleled, studied in whole as well as in part, sorted into “categories” of intent and content. When our “study” is neglected, we will find ourselves less able to express our faith, and more prone to listen to “false” teachers who Paul says “like to tickle our ears”.

So workmen and workwomen and workyouth and workchildren, carry on with diligence, and God will “look good” to seekers because of your understanding and your words. Also, study is just plain good. Makes new connections in our neurons. Expands our understanding. And, very often, just plain enjoyable. Fun even.

Guess what? Bible Studies will resume very soon! Dates to follow.

Judie+

Prayer for the Day:

We thank you gracious God for the health and strength we have enjoyed during our lifetime enabling us to be employed in all sorts of occupations. We thank you for the time we have been granted, and which we use to love our families, develop our minds and bodies, serve our neighbours, bless our communities, and to worship, fellowship and study together. Bless all who are struggling with needs for employment and suffering financial hardship in this precarious time. May we be rich toward one another in love and generosity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.