

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler

to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week

June 20 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #746

At The Table

Last Saturday we celebrated Grandson Mason's 18th birthday, graduation from high school & preparation to enter Air Force basic training in July. As always John & Erica are great hosts. The yard was filled with family & friends. There were children running around everywhere ... on the swing, the playhouse, the trampoline, through a sprinkler. There was lots of yummy food. The weather was wonderful. I was sitting under a canopy with family folks from Cathy's side of the family when all of a sudden there was a stir to my left. Here was my son John with 4 year old granddaughter Natalie. John needed an extra hand. He had a plate of food for Natalie and was dragging her little table & chairs. *"She wants to sit by Pap!"* he declared. At the end of last summer an impulse buy at the grocery store ... a great end-of-summer sale ... was a little 101 Dalmatians table, umbrella and chairs. When I saw it and the sale price I couldn't resist. It's a Pap thing!

Now here was Natalie, even with a yard full of kids to play with, wanting to sit at her little table beside Pap. I was pretty honored! I was holding 5 month old Jaxsen in my arms and here was Natalie wanting to eat her lunch right by my side. Happy Father's Day! I didn't need a thing more to feel very blessed!

We teased and laughed. I teased her. *"Wow, what a beautiful table and chairs, someone who really loves you must have got that for you!"* With her wide smile and twinkling eyes she bubbled, *"You Pap!"* And Natalie loves to tease Pap about putting ketchup and mustard on my hamburger. *"No way!"* I shout in a grossly exaggerated manner as I scrunch up my face in mock horror! She hugged my arm and I kissed her head. We talked to baby Jax. And soon enough Natalie was off to play with the other children. But I couldn't let go of the thought ... she wanted to sit beside me to eat at the table I had bought for her last year. With all these other people ... she wanted to sit by me!

The Bible talks about a supper one day. The Wedding Supper of the Lamb. A grand party! A wonderful back yard barbeque! Friends in Christ will be there! Family members who loved Jesus will be there! Saints from all the ages will be there! And I will be there! And Jesus, will put on His waiter apron and serve us all! Amazing! I imagine Him walking from group to group, smiling, laughing, welcoming, and serving. He'll bend over and kiss one on the head. Another will fall into His embrace. Yet another will fall face down weeping in worship and Christ will lift them up and look into their wet eyes and wipe their tears with a smile. And I will be there. And I want to move my little table right up beside Him if I can. I'm not sure what we will be eating but I suspect it won't need ketchup or mustard to make it delightful ... and I'm pretty sure there won't be any cheese ... since there won't be anything spoiled or decayed in Heaven!

How do you get an invitation to this amazing Supper? Accept the free gift of Salvation through the shed blood of Christ. Say “Yes!” Say, and believe with all your heart, that Jesus Christ is Lord ... and move the table of your life ... real close to Jesus!

“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the Wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’” Revelation 19:6-9 NIV

“Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their Master to come back from His honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when He arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the Master finds on watch! He’ll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing His Wedding Feast with them. It doesn’t matter what time of the night He arrives; they’re awake—and so blessed!”

Luke 12:35-38 The Message

The old Gospel Hymn, “Brethren We Have Met To Worship” has a wonderful verse! Sing it with me!

“Let us love our God supremely; Let us love each other too. Let us care for all His people, Till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven; At His Supper we’ll sit down; Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.”

I can’t wait for that Supper! In the meanwhile let’s move the “table” of our lives, our worship, our obedience, our service, our witness ... as close as we can to Jesus! Pastor Larry <><