

Vision 2024

As we approach the end of 2023... we have an opportunity - and OBLIGATION - to review ...



Eph 5:13-17 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "**Awake**, you who **sleep**, Arise from the **dead**, And Christ will give you light."

Eph 5:15-16 **See then that you walk circumspectly**(to live wisely, morally and cautiously), **not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand** what the **will of the Lord** is.

- Attachment 1 - What God Expects of us
- Attachment 2 - What is the will of the Lord?

Ephesians 4:11-12: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for **the work of ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ.**"

- Attachment 3 - Vision 2025 - 5 year goals for CgiCanada

In Scripture ... the heart is seen as the seat of intentions, thoughts, and emotions. While the natural state of the human heart is often described as deceitful and inclined toward sin, the Bible also speaks to the transformative power of God to renew and purify the heart. The call to **guard the heart** and **seek a clean and pure heart** is a recurring theme...

Jeremiah 17:9: The **heart** is deceitful above all things & desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **thoughts and intents** of the **heart.**"

Psalms 51:10: "Create in me a clean **heart**, O God..."

Matthew 5:8: "Blessed are the pure in **heart**, For they shall see God."

- Attachment 4 - Needs & Feelings ... drive ALL of our Actions! (Cause & Effect)

Titus 2:1: "But as for you, **speak the things** which are proper for **sound doctrine.**"

Ephesians 4:14: "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting."

Romans 16:17: "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, **contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and avoid them."

- Attachment 5 - The Plan of God - Our Statement of Beliefs & Doctrines



“Doomscrolling” is what we do when we keep scrolling through bad news, even when it distresses us. It’s all about negativity bias. Humans have an inclination toward negativity.

The brain processes negative words faster, better & more intensively [than positive words], & that means we remember them more.

Our brains are trying to help us **beat uncertainty** by systematically gathering information. We want to **be prepared for the threats** that await us. And the more bad news we consume, the better prepared we feel.

Watching and reading distressing news negatively affects our serotonin levels. We feel exhausted, tense, irritable, moody and can suffer disturbed sleep.

Mar_13:33 Take heed, **Watch!** and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Ecc_1:18 For in much wisdom is much grief, & he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Proverbs 12:25 "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression..."

- Attachment 6 - Distressing things in 2023 & 2024



1Pe 1:8-9 You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you **rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy**. The reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness**

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all **joy & peace** in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may **abound in hope**.



- Attachment 7 - Encouraging things for 2023 & 2024



1. What God expects of us

1. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.
2. **Micah 6:8:** He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
3. **Matthew 6:33:** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
4. **Matthew 22:37-39:** Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
5. **James 1:27:** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
6. **Ephesians 4:32:** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
7. **Colossians 3:23-24:** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
8. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
9. **Philippians 4:8:** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
10. **1 Corinthians 10:31:** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
11. **Proverbs 3:5-6:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
12. **Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
13. **Romans 12:2:** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
14. **Hebrews 13:16:** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
15. **Isaiah 1:17:** Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.
16. **1 Peter 3:8-9:** Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.
17. **Proverbs 19:17:** He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.

18. **Philippians 2:3-4:** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
19. **John 13:34-35:** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
20. **1 John 2:15-17:** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
21. **Proverbs 14:31:** He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.
22. **James 4:7-8:** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
23. **Colossians 3:12-14:** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
24. **Romans 13:10:** Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
25. **Galatians 6:2:** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
26. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20:** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
27. **Psalms 119:105:** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
28. **Proverbs 3:9-10:** Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, & your vats will overflow with new wine.
29. **Matthew 5:16:** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
30. **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12:** ...that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.
31. **Philippians 4:6-7:** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
32. **Psalms 37:4:** Delight yourself also in the Lord, & He shall give you the desires of your heart.
33. **Proverbs 16:9:** A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.
34. **1 Peter 5:6-7:** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
35. **Romans 12:11:** Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.
36. **Matthew 5:44:** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
37. **Hebrews 10:24-25:** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.





2. Examples of ... the Will of the Lord

WILL ... the desire, inclination, or choice of a person ...the faculty of wishing, choosing, desiring, or intending

1. **Salvation** (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16).
2. **Love and Compassion** (Matthew 22:37-39; 1 John 4:7-8).
3. **Obedience to God's Commands** (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).

4. **Prayer** (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



5. **Holiness and Sanctification** (1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 12:14).
6. **Service and Ministry** (Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:11-13).
7. **Unity in the Body of Christ** (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6).
8. **Justice and Mercy** (Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23).
9. **Sharing the Gospel** (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).
10. **Faithfulness in Trials** (James 1:2-4; Romans 8:28).



11. **Gratitude** (1Thess 5:18; Philippians 4:6)

12. **Stewardship** (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 4:2).
13. **Forgiveness** (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 6:14-15).
14. **Humility** (James 4:10; Philippians 2:3-4).

15. **Avoidance of Sin** (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Romans 12:2).

16. **Discipleship** (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23).

17. **Seeking Wisdom** (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5).

18. **Hospitality** (Rom 12:13; Hebrews 13:2)



19. **Faith in God's Plan** (Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11).

20. **Fellowship with Believers** (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42).

21. **Honesty and Integrity** (Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:25).



22. **Unity in Marriage** (Ephesians 5:22-33;
1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

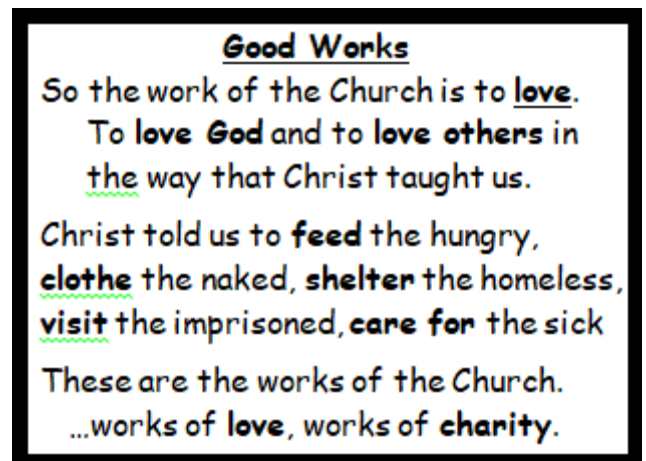
23. **Parental Responsibilities** (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

24. **Contentment** (Philippians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:5).

25. **Purity in Relationships** (1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).

26. **Reconciliation** (Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

27. **Good Works** (Eph 2:10; Titus 3:8).



28. **Worship and Devotion** (John 4:23-24; Colossians 3:16-17).

29. **Respect for Authorities** (Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 13:17).

30. **Endurance in Persecution** (Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12).

CgiCanada – Mission - *To preach the good news of the Kingdom to all peoples, primarily within Canada, as a witness and a warning; and to nurture and prepare disciples to reign with Jesus Christ.*

CgiCanada – Vision – *By 2025, we will have a reputation for being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God.*

CgiCanada – Core Values –

“I foresee” (IAC)

- ❑ **Integrity** – Rom 12:9; Jos 24:14
- ❑ **Courage** – Prov 28:1
- ❑ **Care** – Eph 4:32
- ❑ **Courtesy** – Gal 5:13-14
- ❑ **Consideration** – Heb 10:24

Values to Light Your Way

Accuracy	Compassion	Friendship	Loyalty
Achievement	Courage	Happiness	Passion
Adventure	Creativity	Harmony	Power
Authenticity	Discipline	Health	Security
Balance	Excellence	Humor	Stability
Bravery	Ethics	Integrity	Time
Collaboration	Faith	Justice	Transformation
Connection	Freedom	Learning	Wealth

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 1 – To help God’s people:

- a. Walk worthy of our vocation;
- b. Maintain humility while forbearing one another in charity;
- c. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;
- d. Discover, develop & use their gifts towards being active members of the body of Christ

“**Eph. 4.1-3** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 2 - To have an evangelism program

- a. That is robust and uncompromising in its Biblical content and ability to address current affairs; and
- b. That leverages technology and word of mouth.

External Forces acting against us

Political Winds

Government Legislation
Societal Changes
Negative Economic Factors
Political Schisms
Fake news
Influence of Socialism
Environmental Movement
Continuing growth of the conflict between Nationalism / Globalism
Identity Politics (e.g., Reverse Racism)
Global Instability and dangers of terrorism

Moral Redefinition

Demonization of Christianity
Education and Indoctrination
Exaltation of Islam and Transgenderism
Normalization of sexual immorality and murder
Increasing syncretism – all religions are equal

Social Unrest

Erosion of respect through easy access to knowledge
Growing confusion
Continuing growth of violent social unrest and erosion of civility
Loss of trust and increase in suspicion over authority figures
Open borders and changing demographics
Addictions and mental disorders

Internal Challenges that may obstruct us

Division

Political schisms seeping into the Church
 Not understanding the church is a family
 Distance between scattered brethren
 Little regard for the need to gather and fellowship
 Holding onto our youth
 Lack of understanding of the impact of social media/Internet in the lives of our youth

Disrespect

Disrespect for the ministry
 Connected audiences that fact check/challenge our statements in real time
 Lack of effectiveness in counselling
 Lack of recognition of the ministry as a source of counselling
 Lack of recognition of the importance of the sanctity of marriage
 Mental illness
 Maintaining privacy

Growing Weakness

Lack of closure re funerals/death
 Lack of support in the operations of the congregations
 Dedication and devotion of membership
 Fatigue – expressed in how we can accept teachings
 Aging congregations
 Cycle of diminishing revival in succeeding generations
 Small ministry and small budget
 Economic challenges within the church
 To be relevant and remain rooted

Our Six Critical Success Factors +1 = 7 !

1. Personal Health

- Personal Health Maintenance
 - Diet
 - Weight Management
 - Sleep
 - Exercise
 - Stress Management
 - Supplements

2. Healthy Congregations

- Healthy Congregations
 - Speaking to the issues of Family, Marriage, Conflict Resolution
 - Strong and Healthy families in our congregations
 - Encourage active engagement by, and mutual respect for, all members
 - Discourage gossip and disrespect of Christ's body

3. Staying Relevant

- Staying Relevant (with the Changing Times)
 - Staying above the Party Politics
 - Teaching meat in due season
 - Preaching about current topics evangelically
 - Incorporating current language into our teachings
 - Teaching against both sides of extremes

4. Biblical Fluency

- Biblical competence and fluency in both the ministry and the brethren

5. Leading By Example

- Leading by Example
 - Personally
 - How we interact in the ministry
 - § Encouraging each other to discover, develop and use our gifts
 - § How we publicly interact with each other
 - How we interact with the congregation

6. Communication

- Improving our Communication Skills
 - Speaking skills
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Counselling skills

7. Spiritual Well-Being

4

UNIVERSAL HUMAN NEEDS

The needs below are grouped into 3 meta-categories and 9 subcategories of core needs

WELL BEING

Sustenance
balance
exercise, movement
food, water, air
health
nourishment
nutrition
rest, recreation
rejuvenation
sleep
touch
warmth
wellness
vitality, energy

Safety
comfort
peace
protection from harm
relaxation
security
shelter
trust

Order
abundance
calm, ease
confidence
consistency
equanimity
flow
focus
harmony
interdependence
predictability
simplicity
serenity
stability
structure
tranquility
trust
wholeness

CONNECTION

Love
affection
care
closeness
dignity, intimacy
equality
esteem, positive regard
generosity
kindness
mattering, importance
nurturing
support, help
respect, honoring
valuing, prizing

Empathy
awareness
acceptance
acknowledgment
communication
compassion
consideration
empathy
openness
presence
recognition
receptivity
sensitivity
understanding

Belonging
collaboration, team
community
companionship
cooperation
fellowship
generosity
inclusion
home
hospitality, welcoming
mutuality, reciprocity
partnership

SELF-EXPRESSION

Freedom
adventure
actualization
autonomy
choice
creativity, innovation
growth, challenge
humor
independence
joy
play, fun
spontaneity

Honesty
authenticity
clarity
congruence
dependability
integrity
power, empowerment
presence
reliability
trust

Meaning
achievement, success
aliveness
appreciation, gratitude
beauty
celebration, mourning
contribution
discovery
efficacy, effectiveness
excellence, mastery, skill
inspiration
learning
passion
purpose
vision
wisdom
wonder

FEELINGS

Feelings are bodily felt experiences and tell us about our needs being met or not met, and about what we are observing, thinking and wanting.

PEACEFUL

tranquil
calm
content
engrossed
absorbed
expansive
serene
loving
blissful
satisfied
relaxed
relieved
quiet
carefree
composed
fulfilled

LOVING

warm
affectionate
tender
appreciative
friendly
sensitive
compassionate
grateful
nurtured
amorous
trusting
open
thankful
radiant
adoring
passionate

GLAD

happy
excited
hopeful
joyful
satisfied
delighted
encouraged
grateful
confident
inspired
touched
proud
exhilarated
ecstatic
optimistic
glorious

PLAYFUL

energetic
effervescent
invigorated
zestful
refreshed
impish
alive
lively
exuberant
giddy
adventurous
mischievous
jubilant
goofy
buoyant
electrified

INTERESTED

involved
inquisitive
intense
enriched
absorbed
alert
aroused
astonished
concerned
curious
eager
enthusiastic
fascinated
intrigued
surprised
helpful

MAD

impatient
pessimistic
disgruntled
frustrated
irritable
edgy
grouchy
agitated
exasperated
disgusted
irked
cantankerous
animosity
bitter
rancorous
irate, furious
angry
hostile
enraged
violent

SAD

lonely
heavy
troubled
helpless
gloomy
overwhelmed
distant
despondent
discouraged
distressed
dismayed
disheartened
despairing
sorrowful
unhappy
depressed
blue
miserable
dejected
melancholy

SCARED

afraid
fearful
terrified
startled
nervous
jittery
horrified
anxious
worried
anguished
lonely
insecure
sensitive
shocked
apprehensive
dread
jealous
desperate
suspicious
frightened

TIRED

exhausted
fatigued
inert
lethargic
indifferent
weary
overwhelmed
fidgety
helpless
heavy
sleepy
disinterested
reluctant
passive
dull
bored
listless
blah
mopey
comatose

CONFUSED

frustrated
perplexed
hesitant
troubled
uncomfortable
withdrawn
apathetic
embarrassed
hurt
uneasy
irritated
suspicious
unsteady
puzzled
restless
boggled
chagrined
unglued
detached
skeptical

The Plan of God

2-Father

LOVE

4-Jesus

7-Angels

- Michael
- Gabriel
- Satan
- Demons

13-Kingdom of God

(King, subjects, territory, laws)

Family of 1-God

"Sons of God" (Eternal Life)

19-Biblical Covenants

- Noahic
- Abrahamic
- Mosaic ("Old")
- Davidic
- "New"

5-Holy Spirit

(essence, power, mind & spiritual extension & presence of God)

- Fruit - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control
- Gifts - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, & fear of the Lord

3-Bible

- People
- Places
- Dates
- Actions
- 15-Prophecy*

Lifecycle- 6-Mankind & Spirit in man

(essence which imparts the power of the human mind to physical brain tissue)

- Birth
- Learning
- 26-Sin
- ...Illness, 31-Healing
- Work
- ...Marriage, 30-Family
- ...Calling
- Old Age
- Death
- 17-Judgment
- 14-Resurrections



18-Law

- 20-Ten Commandments

22-Holy Days

- 21-Sabbath
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles
- Last Great Day

32-Church

- 33-Elders/Deacons
- Flock
- 16-Gospel
- Doctrine
- 34-Fellowship
- 29-Man's Relationship with fellowman

8-Salvation

- 9-Faith
- 10-Repentance
- 11-Baptism
- 12-Laying on of hands

Prayer

- Integrity
- Courage
- Care

Meditation

- Courtesy
- Consideration
- Armor of God
- Good Choices

Fasting

- 24-Food laws

Worship

- 23-Tithing
- Hope
- Other

Vices

- pride
- greed
- wrath
- envy
- lust
- gluttony
- sloth
- other

35-Traditional Christian Doctrines

- a-Fall, b-Immortal soul, c-Heaven, d-Hell, e-Trinity, f-Gospel, g-Kingdom, h-Born again, i-Sunday, j-Xmas, k-Easter, l-Rapture, m-Lord's Prayer, n-Predestination, o-Speaking in tongues, p-Law & grace, q-Infant baptism, r-Baptism, s-Penance, t-Eternal security, u-Universalism, v-Church, w-The cross, x-Pictures of Jesus, y-Religious medals/statues, z-Religious titles, aa-Faith healing, ab-Abstinence/Asceticism, Other

Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

Statement of Beliefs & Systematic Theology (STP)

1. Primary Doctrines:

- 1 - God,
- 2 - The Father,
- 3 - Bible,
- 4 - Jesus Christ,
- 5 - Holy Spirit,
- 6 - Mankind,
- 7 - Angelic Realm;

2. Salvation:

- 8 - Salvation,
- 9 - Faith,
- 10 - Repentance,
- 11 - Baptism,
- 12 - Laying on of Hands;

3. Kingdom of God:

- 13 - Kingdom of God,
- 14 - Resurrections,
- 15 - Prophecy,
- 16 - Gospel,
- 17 - Judgment;

4. Law of God:

- 18 - Law of God,
- 19 - Biblical Covenants,
- 20 - Ten Commandments,
- 21 - Sabbath,
- 22 - Annual Holy Days,
- 23 - Tithing and Giving,
- 24 - Biblical Dietary Laws,
- 25 - The Hebrew Calendar,
- 26 - Sin

5. The Christian:

- 27 - The Christian,
- 28 - The Christian's Relationship with God,
- 29 - The Christian's Relationship with Fellow Man,

- 30 - The Christian Family,
- 31 - Healing;

6. The Church of God:

- 32 - The Church of God,
- 33 - Ministry of the Church,
- 34 - Fellowship of the Brethren;

7. Traditional Christian Doctrines:

- 35 - The Fall of Man
- 36 - The Immortal Soul
- 37 - Heaven
- 38 - Hell
- 39 - Trinity
- 40 - Gospel*16
- 41 - Kingdom of God*13
- 42 - Born Again
- 43 - Sunday
- 44 - Christmas
- 45 - Easter
- 46 - The Rapture
- 47 - The Lord's Prayer
- 48 - Predestination
- 49 - Speaking in Tongues
- 50 - Law & Grace
- 51 - Infant Baptism
- 52 - Baptism*11
- 53 - Penance
- 54 - Eternal Security
- 55 - Universalism
- 56 - The Church*
- 57 - The Cross
- 58 - Pictures of Jesus
- 59 - Religious Medals/Statues
- 60 - Ministerial/Religious Titles
- 61 - Faith Healing
- 62 - Abstinence/Asceticism

6 - Distressing things in 2023 & 2024

In our Government (in Canada & our “protector” country the USA)

- Canada National Debt \$2.1 Trillion - Annual deficit \$40 billion (+ “free dental !?!”)
- US National Debt \$33 Trillion - Annual Deficit \$1.7 Trillion (23% jump !?!)
No fiscal responsibility !?!
- Canadian Carbon taxes from \$20 per ton (2019) to \$65 (2023) to \$170 in 2030
Inflationary on ALL goods & services ...Impact on world climate 0%
- Illegal Immigration ... became “irregular immigration” ie open borders & strains on:
housing, food banks, health care, job market, crime, racial tensions, schooling
- Canada Media Fund \$366 Million to “others” & (+ 1.3 Billion for CBC)
Exodus 23:8 & you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning & perverts the words of the righteous.
- Political Authoritarianism- Concerns about mandates (infringing on personal freedoms)
RE: health, ability to travel, ability to buy plastic bags, gas powered automobiles, etc ...
- Concerns about policies ... (hampering the oil & gas industry, hampering development of nuclear energy, hampering religious freedoms, supporting abortion, supporting LGBTQ

Political Unrest: War in Israel, Ukraine

Economic Downturn: High interest rates, inflation - Fixed incomes, drop in standard of living

Left policies & actions: BLM, political correctness, Diversity Equity Inclusion, anti-Semitism, cancel culture, woke, wealth redistribution, Education reform (away from Christian values), antifa, criminal justice reform, gun control, voting reforms

Substance abuse: 3% of Canadians (1.1 million) use at least one of six illegal drugs (cocaine/crack, speed/ methamphetamine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, salvia)
21% (6.4 Million Canadian use cannabis). Of 78% (23.3 million) of Canadians who consume alcohol ... 21% (4.8 million) experienced at least one alcohol related harm.

Mental illness: 18% of Canadians (over 5 million) suffer from a mental disorder

Homelessness: 235,000 people in Canada are homeless.
1.3 million in the last 5 years have experienced homelessness (including shelters, women’s shelters, etc)





Encouraging things for 2023 & 2024

I'll not try to predict peace treaties or scientific breakthroughs ... or other joyful headlines

Ecclesiastes 3:22: "So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage

Ecclesiastes 9:9: "Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun."

Psa 127:3 Behold, **children** are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20: "Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart."

Php 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, And a time to **laugh**; A time to mourn, And a time to **dance**;

2Ch 30:21 So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, **singing** to the LORD, accompanied by **loud instruments**.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials !?!

VISION - Gives us HOPE for the future ... A time of no more tears - in our Master's embrace!