

Calvary Bible News

From Pastor Greg:

A New Year's Reality Check with Encouragement

The other day I was watching an online video of a pastor addressing his congregation in January of 2019. He was alive with joy, enthusiasm and a genuine, relatable warmth. He gave a seeker sensitive welcome to those who were visiting his church for the first time. He then forecasted how 2019 would be a wonderful year for his church and those seeking the LORD. This pastor reminded me of how similar I have started new year's messages with God's light shining from my face and predicting promising outcomes. Suddenly, it occurred to me how often we anticipate with joy the good that comes in each year and rarely address the bad that will also come. I'm not trying to knock optimism (or half cup analogies) or God's blessings for us. It seems to me coming through 2020 that God allowed and used COVID-19 to remind us that trials will come for our good as well. Jesus's brother James speaks about this in his letter to the Jewish Messianic believers in Christ from James 1:2-4, "*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* [New International Version \(NIV\)](#) 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](#) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.)"

My new year's address to you in 2021 is hopeful and encouraging because we have an awesome God who remains the same no matter what happens here on earth. My address is also a reality check with the truth that your faith will be tested this year. The good news is you need not be alone in your trial(s). Jesus came to build His Church and "the gates of Hades will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18)." Together, as Jesus's church at Calvary Bible, let us face this year together from COVID19 lockdown to maturing in Christ and not lacking anything.

Join me in prayer this year and ask God for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Consider it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds in 2021 because each trial taken by faith will produce perseverance toward your maturity in Christ bringing glory to God. Are you ready for a year of maturing? Here we go Jesus! We will follow You!

Love in Christ in 2021!

Pastor Greg



Prayer corner: Please pray for:

Francine Hill recently diagnosed with Cancer.

Diana Robertson recovering from hip surgery.

Melanie Coker healing from breaking her shoulder.

Strength for Rose Elliott and Beth Laming, both dealing with chronic health issues.

Our Senior's as they deal with isolation due to the current pandemic.

Needs: We are here for you! Our Pastor, Elders, and Stewards

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Worship Service: Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Livestream from our Facebook page

CBC FaceBook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryBibleChurchSF/>

If you do not have Facebook then click on this website. When the pop-up window opens asking you to sign-in look for the words at the bottom "Not now." Click it and you will be able to visit the page and see the live stream.

**Please visit our website: calvarybiblechurch.ca for Donations or Mail cheques to Calvary Bible Church
P.O. Box 103 Station Main, Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 4S4.**

Interested in Small Groups?

For further information about when smalls groups will resume please contact: 1) Men's Group – Jordi Wills; 2) Women's Group – Heidi Wills; 3) Youth Group – Dan Noel

Here is something to check out...

With the recent release of Pastor Jake Giesbrecht's book "Relationship: The Essence of Discipleship," he has now released a series of 13 videos called Loving

Discipleship. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGci1T03GdfG5m4vpD-6F0PjFxp8_pyo

These 11-14 min. videos explore the themes of the book and are designed to create conversations about what a discipleship ministry looks like.

To watch a promo about the series, please go to <https://youtu.be/GgsE3SVkDLk>