

BAPTIST BEATS



October 14, 2021



Hello from Edmonton.

I am praying for you and your ministry. In September I was able to travel to BC, Montreal, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg to visit our pastors and leaders. It was good to preach in our churches and confer with our leaders on a wide range of matters. Many of our pastors are uncertain of how to lead or minister in this time. When the Covid numbers were dropping in the summer there was much optimism across the nation and our churches. Now the fourth wave of Covid has had a deflating effect on so many aspects of life and ministry. The potential of a vaccine passport to attend worship is a looming challenge and we pray for unity, courage and discernment to know how to lead our churches in this time.

I was reading recently in Philippians 4 and thinking about anxiety. Verse 6 has always been a key to me - 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' But then I took note of the four words just prior in verse 5 - "The Lord is near". I had always understood this verse to relate to the Lord's second coming. Now I found myself reflecting on "The Lord is near" in a different sense, namely His nearness to us in this life. And that gave me great comfort.

So what do these four words really mean? One commentary on Philippians ties together the words "The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing." The original word "engus" can mean near in space or near in time. So, used in a chronological sense, it can refer to the Lord's return. But, he says, Paul's emphasis here is on the Lord's nearness in the sense of His presence, to hear the cry of the believer's heart. "The Lord is near to all who call upon him..." (Psalm 145:18)

We are not to be anxious "about anything" or "in any situation," but to pray. And I thought about the anxieties we face in this dreary season of Covid. The mental strain on our people and pastors is a great concern to me and our district leaders.

The solution for anxiety is multi-faceted but one big part is to recognize and remember the Lord's presence, and faithfully bring our needs to Him in prayer. Then wonderfully "the peace of God which transcends all understanding" will be our portion.

And in this month of Thanksgiving, surely this is reason to be thankful!

Executive Director

Kevin Schular



BGC CANADA

**Pastor & Leaders Monthly Zoom
October 20, 2021 - 10:00 AM MDT**



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Jason Kelsey - new pastor in Midale Baptist Church (Midale, SK)



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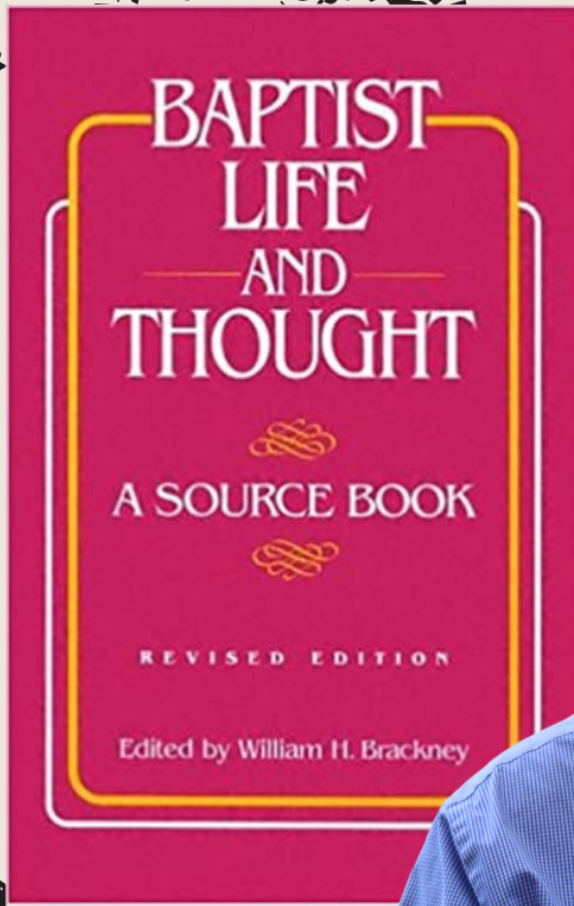
Canadian Baptist Seminary

SEMINARY CLASS ONLINE

Dr. Kevin Schular

January-April 2022

Wednesday afternoons



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Pastors meeting in Winnipeg



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ZOOM CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPBELLS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021 - 6:00 MDT

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Interesting Reads



What's the Real Difference Between Leadership and Management?

Are you leading your church or managing people?

The distinctions between managing and leading people impact your professional purpose. Here are five aspects that set them apart.

After voting, we pray and reach out

After voting, we need to pray for our newly elected and re-elected leaders.



Fire and brimstone: Sodom and Gomorrah perhaps destroyed by 'cosmic fireball,' evidence shows

"All the observations stated in Genesis are consistent with a cosmic fireball. But there is no scientific proof this destroyed city is indeed the Sodom of the Old Testament."

Professor James Kennett, University of California at Santa Barbara

Our motto and mission:

"A Network of Churches that make disciples who live and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their Communities, throughout Canada, and out to the Nations."



Together, we have identified seven essential areas where God is at work among our church families. These seven areas are also critical to the future growth and health of our churches. We highlight one Essential in each issue of Baptist Beats

Spiritual Formation

BGCC CHURCHES ARE COMMITTED TO DISCIPLE-MAKING.

7 Essentials of the BGCC

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