CHOICES - INTRODUCTION

You are invited to participate in a series of 5 studies that will take a multi-faceted approach to considering how we live in this post-Christian society. The theme is CHOICES.

Several decades ago, evangelical theologian Francis Schaeffer wrote a book entitled *HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE? - THE RISE AND DECLINE OF WESTERN THOUGHT AND CULTURE.* That in itself would be an excellent study, as Schaeffer, in 1971, clearly understood the eternal problem, and saw an increasingly disturbing trend developing. Suffice to say, this sage analyst of humanism and Christian truths summed up the eternal challenge: “I believe people ARE as they think ….. the choices we make… irrevocably mould our culture…”

While scriptural passages are the foundation of this series, we will examine them in a non-traditional context, also considering a variety of individuals who have both lived, and conducted their lives, based on Christian principles. By doing so, they contributed to what became Canada. They were not all what we may consider to be “our type” of Christian, but this selection of men and women from our past were all people of faith. They range from Father Brebeuf, to Nellie McClung, Timothy Eaton, and a Mississaugua, and an Ojibwa leader.

The scripture passages to be examined are predominately from the Old Testament, and the series is summed up in a celebration of the assurance of Romans chapter 8.

Woven into the study are a series of basic “concepts” or precepts, that have given purpose and structure to society, but are currently under attack.

Music – largely classical selections – will be considered briefly at the end of each session, and provide the setting for quiet reflection on what has been discussed.

While a series, each session can be considered as a stand-alone unit. The format will not be simply a lecture, as the concepts presented will be discussed and evaluated each week by those participants who wish to do so. There will be no pressure to take part, no tests or exams! Observers are welcome!