

TEN SURE THINGS FOR 2024
JAMES 4:13-17

Introduction

We are living in an EVER-CHANGING world. By-and-large, most people don't like **CHANGE** and have difficulty with too much **CHANGE!** Nevertheless, **CHANGES** come at us at a faster and faster pace! Most folks I know find a sense of comfort in their **RUT** or comfortable **ROUTINE!**

1. TECHNOLOGY CHANGES:

Many things that once were only science fiction have become a reality. *The Jetsons*, seems downright prophetic.

We know that what is top of the line today may become obsolete tomorrow as the next **CHANGE** or **CHANGES** role out!

2. MEDICINE CHANGES:

Things that were once impossible are now routine. (*e.g. transplants*) Things that used to take a stay in the hospital are now done on an outpatient basis. Things that used to take weeks or months to recover from may now take only days.

3. SOCIETY CHANGES:

Many things that even most of **SOCIETY** used to look down on and condemn have now become generally acceptable in the eyes of the majority of **SOCIETY**. And **CHURCHES** face pressure to **CHANGE** with **SOCIETY!**

I field calls from folks either looking for a **CHURCH** that **HAS CHANGED** with the **WORLD**, or folks looking for a **CHURCH** that **HAS NOT CHANGED** with the **WORLD** and stands firmly on the **WORD OF GOD!**

Those of us advanced in years know that the **SOCIETY** of today is not the **SOCIETY** that we were born into! It's a different world!

4. FASHION CHANGES:

What was popular last year, will be out of style this coming year. Most of you know that I am not a slave to **FASHION!** (*e.g. ties*)

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And we could go on and on looking at different things that are in a state of *flux* or *constant CHANGE*. As we get older, all the **CHANGES** can begin to make our head spin and we have trouble keeping up with all the **CHANGE** that we are being pressured into!

So, with whatever comes our way in **2024**, what is there that we can count on **NOT TO CHANGE** in this ever-changing world? **BELIEVERS** have the **LORD** as an **ANCHOR** to hold us fast and keep us from being moved from the things that **GOD** would have us cling to so we won't be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine! *Hebrews 6:19*—"Which hope we have as an **anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. . .**"

I freely admit that I don't know what CHANGES 2024 will bring, but the outlook is dark. But in the midst of all that is changing in this world, let me give you TEN SURE THINGS FOR 2024:

I. WE CAN BE SURE THE LORD WILL NOT CHANGE!
Hebrews 13:8—"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Song - "Yesterday, Today, forever!")

Malachi 3:6—"For I am the **LORD**, I change not;"

There is a **COMFORT** for those of us that know the **LORD** in the fact that the **LORD DOES NOT** and **WILL NOT CHANGE!**

II. WE CAN BE SURE GOD'S WORD WILL NOT CHANGE! The BIBLE still contains all the ETERNAL TRUTHS that are able to provide the ANSWERS to ALL of our QUESTIONS, DOUBTS, AND FEARS!

Psalms 119:105—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Matthew 24:35—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

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Psalms 12:6-7—“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

2 Corinthians 1:20—“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

III. WE CAN BE SURE OUR PRAYERS WILL STILL BE HEARD AND ANSWERED ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL!

Psalms 50:15—“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”

Jeremiah 33:3—“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

1 John 5:14—“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”

IV. WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL STILL BE AT WORK CONVICTING, CALLING, COMFORTING, AND CARING FOR US!

John 14:16-18—“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

V. WE CAN BE SURE THE LORD WILL STILL BE IN CONTROL AND ABLE TO SUPPLY OUR EVERY NEED!
“While it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes there is a GOD who has not surrendered HIS AUTHORITY!”
(A.W. Tozer)

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Psalms 46:1-3—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah”

Philippians 4:19—“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

VI. WE CAN BE SURE THAT THERE WILL STILL BE THOSE THAT NEED TO BE, CAN BE AND WILL BE SAVED!

As the world gets more chaotic, there will be many who will be truly looking for an answer! We have **THE ANSWER!** In fact, we have been entrusted with **THE ANSWER**—The **GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!** *1 Thessalonians 2:1-4*

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Romans 10:13—“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 4:35—“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

1 Peter 3:15—“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

VII. WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE LORD’S LOVE, FORGIVENESS, PEACE, AND BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO WANT THEM!

John 6:37—“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

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Matthew 11:28-30—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

VIII. WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH WILL STILL BE THE LORD’S AGENCY, PLACE, AND PLAN FOR SERVICE, SACRIFICE, AND FELLOWSHIP UNTIL HE COMES FOR THE SAINTS!

Hebrews 10:25—“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Ephesians 3:20-21—“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Matthew 16:18—“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

I am not ready to call it quits, complain or compromise. I don’t believe **GOD** is finished building **HIS CHURCH!**

IX. OUR LORD WILL STILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER HIS CHILDREN FROM OR THROUGH WHATEVER TRIAL IS BEFORE US! (e.g. Daniel 3:15-17)

Psalms 121:1-2—“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.”

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X. WE CAN BE SURE THE LORD WILL HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR STEWARDSHIP OF 2024!

1 Corinthians 4:1-2—“I Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

1 Peter 4:10—“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Conclusion

What all will we see in 2024? That, I can’t be sure of! I’d love for this to be the year that the **LORD** comes and takes us home to be with **HIM!**

But whether this is the year the **LORD** comes back or not, there are these 10 things we can be sure of!