

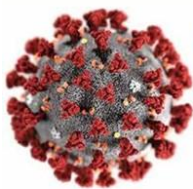
**Bible Study “God Is in Control” by Dr. Paul Jehle**

**Week 3 Notes: April 22, 2020**

# God is in Control!



*Plowing for Repentance*



Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV  
is now officially called  
**COVID-19**  
CO - Corona  
VI - Virus  
D - Disease  
World Health Organization

## A “Global Pause” An Unprecedented Time

- Affecting virtually 100% of the globe; *God has allowed it!*
- God is in control, working man’s choices (sin) out for good
  - Sin is why there are viruses, natural or created by man
  - The Church is uniquely structured organically to handle pandemics
- Our focus; how God will use this to advance His Kingdom!
- This “divine pause” is a wake-up call to the nations!
- Pandemics have often preceded revival and awakenings!

## With what *attitude* should believers address legitimate Concerns?

- Government over-reach through emergency orders...
  - A neglect for the First Amendment and God-given rights
  - Creating long-term inflation and dependency on Government...
- God forbids direct rebellion against Civil Government, *but*
  - Resistance against evil is honored when in submission to God
  - Civil interposition exhorts us to relate/resist *with* lower magistrates
- *God's goal is to deal with our attitude toward authority*
  - This begins in our heart toward God, and then in the home/church
  - If Govt *commands us* to disobey God, we resist *submissively*

## The Danger and Exposure of Evil

- Using a crisis for greater global control...
  - Some Nations; a total lock-down; no flights in our out (few deaths)
  - Facebook removes posts / Gates' vaccine / global control?
- Economic consequences – a perfect storm for chaos
  - Oil *no demand* / inflation / hospital bankruptcy / 30% w/ no work
  - Governments will run out of money – *anarchy/revolt often follows*
- Rays of light from civil officials – *centralize or localize?*
  - Sheriffs in Michigan refusing to enforce unconstitutional edicts
  - Governor Kristi Noem of South Dakota – *“If a leader will take too much power in a time of crisis, that is how we lose our country...”*

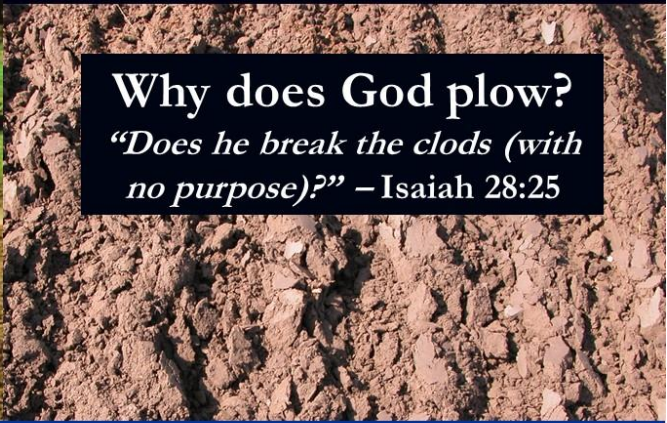
## The Larger Kingdom Goals God has in Mind

- A global wake-up call for the Church – *will she arise?*
  - We cannot serve God's purposes without deep repentance
  - We will be given a crash course on applying the Bible to everything
- As God forces power to the bottom – *will we serve?*
  - Though the enemy wants to centralize, God is in control!
  - Top-down control will fail and influence will be great at the bottom!
- *A lesson from God's Judgment on Judah – 725 B.C.*
  - Prophets declared truth in decline of Israel (pointing out priorities)
  - *Isaiah declared God's priorities (hope) during a time of Judgment*

## Plowing to Repent – Isaiah 28:23-25

- Ephraim (son of Joseph); one of 10 tribes in southern Judah
  - Israel (two northern tribes) would fall to Assyria in 722 BC
  - Judah (10 southern tribes) and its capital Jerusalem were proud!
  - *“Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim” – v. 1*
- Isaiah gives a parable of God's farming during Judgment

*“Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my speech. Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods? When he has leveled its surface, does he not sow the black cumin and scatter the cumin, plant the wheat in rows, the barley in the appointed place, and the spelt in its place?”*



## Why does God plow?

*“Does he break the clods (with no purpose)?” – Isaiah 28:25*

- *Mt. 13:5-6, 21...seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died.... They don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted...”*

## God Plows that we might Repent

- *Hosea 10:12 - Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness, break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, until He comes to rain righteousness on you.*



- **Soil is a symbol of our hearts... farmers break up clods**
  - so the soil can receive seed and become more productive
  - Increase drainage, turning organic matter into soil



## The Farmer Plows

- *The Farmer plows through fields of green, and the blade of the plow is sharp and keen (repeat)*
  - *But the seed must be sown to bring forth grain, and nothing is born without suffering and pain.*
  - *And God never sows in the heart of man without intention, purpose and plan.*



## The Farmer Plows

- *So when you feel the plows sharp blade, let not your heart be sorely afraid (repeat)*
  - *For like the farmer od chooses a field, from which He expects an excellent yield.*
  - *Rejoice though your heart is broken in two, God seeks to bring forth a rich harvest in you.*



## God turns over the soil to help us Repent

*Does he keep turning the soil (without purpose)? – Isaiah 28:24*

- *“...other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants... the worries of this life” – Mt. 13:7,22*
- Farmers / gardeners turn over soil to...
  - Give the seed a head start over the weeds – *nipping sin in the bud*
  - Replenish nutrients – *we need our attitudes renewed by the Spirit*
  - Allow a greater flow of oxygen – *we need to breath spiritually*

## The Meaning of Repentance

- Repent – *metanoeo* – “to perceive (noeo) afterwards (meta)”
  - The mind responds to a change of heart (spirit) and attitude
  - The mind “turns” or embraces new thinking, affecting behavior
- Heart is the “core” of our inner being - *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life* – Pr. 4:23
  - Heart refers to our spirit – motive, intent – where Holy Spirit dwells
  - Heart is our entire inner being; spirit, soul (mind, will & emotions)
- God’s goal is to purify our attitude so we produce good fruit
  - *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit... exposing our innermost thoughts and desires.”* – Hebrews 4:12



## The Practice of Repentance

*The germination of spiritual growth*

- Jeremiah 17:10 - *I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*
- Let's ask God to break up the fallow ground in the little things
  - Attitudes of selfishness, sarcasm, frustration, anger, retaliation...
  - Repenting for attitudes stops actions that cause greater harm...

## Winning on the inside is Practice for Life

- Pr. 16:32 - *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.*
- Jer. 12:5 – *If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?*
  - Through this global test, God is revealing what kind of character the Church of Jesus Christ has and we must seize the opportunity for greater depths of repentance!

## Individual and Corporate Sin / Repentance

- Personal Sin – *“the transgression of the law”* (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4)
- National Iniquity – *“the twisting of the law of the nation”*
  - *For I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. – Exodus 20:5*
- We are called to “displace” the strongholds of the enemy
  - *By repenting for the sinful attitudes we might have in everyday life*
  - *By joining with others in our church, and other churches, to operate in a different spirit, seeing the Kingdom of God manifest through service and love, being voluntarily received by the culture*