

The New Testament Church
The Great Reset #2 – The Local Ekklesia
Pastor Paul Jehle, January 17, 2021

I Introduction and review....

- A. We felt ***attacked spiritually*** as if a part of the enemy’s global plan (but which will fail of course)
- B. The “great reset” is a bold attempt of internationalists and globalists to reset the world’s economy
 - 1. Covid-19 has caused the normal 10-15 year transition to be squeezed into 18 months
 - 2. The enemy of globalization is small business – 80% or more of all jobs (choice)
 - 1. Debt – usual ratio can’t have debt higher than 70% of your income; US is now at 140%+!
 - 2. World-wide, among all nations, Japan has the worst ratio at 248% debt in relation to GDP
 - 3. The ratio of individual to national debt illustrates that *our choices have great consequences!*
- C. **God is resetting the *attitude* of His people toward their responsibility for the earth (culture)!**
 - 1. The enemy introduced the “blame game” in the Garden of Eden
 - 2. God’s remedy was sending CHRIST who took responsibility and gave us the same role!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” – Luke 4:18-19 (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2)

II God’s current focus is to reset the attitude of His people – to accept their responsibility as well as their main mission to ***express Christ through the Local Church!***

- A. God’s response to centralized tyranny is to force power and responsibility to the local level
 - 1. Genesis 2:20 – *decision making in the Garden was to be local – between God, Adam and Eve*
 - 2. Genesis 11:7-9 – *the tyranny of Nimrod was reset by God confusing their language, forcing them to scatter locally as He had intended in the first place*
 - 3. Acts 2:42 – *God birthed the local church built on teaching doctrine, fellowship and prayer*
- B. The **Ekklesia** – *“the church as God’s representative of His Kingdom in the earth”*
 - 1. Matthew 16:18 – *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*
 - 2. Matthew 18:19 – *if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.*
- C. But how is God “resetting” the believer’s focus back to the local church?
 - 1. The Church is God’s method for both service and influence (salt and light) of His Kingdom
 - a. It is where believers practice walking in harmony though having differing opinions
 - b. It is this practice of keeping priorities for Christ’s presence and keeping out of the left-right political and extremism of the enemy that is the most powerful example
 - 2. John 17:21 – *that they may all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*
 - 3. Remember, it is the *church* that shall restore all things the prophets have spoken, prior to the return of the Jesus from heaven (see Acts 3:19-21)
 - 4. This is how God counters the centralized, globalist elites.... – consider the following
 - a. People are worried about big tech censorship – but the real problem is the believer who does not restrain his speech or writing as the Scripture warns – *“death and life are in the power of the tongue (Pr. 18:21)*
 - b. The believer is also given an exhortation to boycott (*shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them - Luke 9:5*)
 - 5. Localism is the answer, and we must return to the purpose of the Church to manifest His Kingdom through relationship building and service as salt and light (evangelism)