

The New Testament Church – Resurrection Sunday  
*Preparing for Change #1 – Apostolic Doctrine*  
April 21, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

- I Preparing for Change – God is bringing a correction, reset, adjustment, to our nation/culture...
- A. There is great change coming and most Americans are aware something must happen...
    - 1. An economic collapse looming – a reset is coming (quote from Nuttle Report)
    - 2. Evil boldly manifests everywhere – elites, media and entertainers appear possessed...
    - 3. This nation is so polarized, no wonder many see signs of a dreaded civil war...
  - B. Consider what that first century church faced for a moment, however...
    - 1. Government sovereignty on the brink of bankruptcy; appeal to Caesar...
    - 2. Evil was the norm - no concept of justice, or health (20 yr lifespan), the rule of law...
    - 3. Total polarization - no equality – men over women, 40% were slaves
    - 4. And the church had no buildings, Bible schools, worship teams, clergy, or finances!
    - 5. A small nucleus of believers demonstrated love, even to enemies, adopting babies, etc.
    - 6. From 20+ believers in 30 AD to 30 million in 400 AD – causing the Empire to collapse!
  - C. Acts 2:42 is the key to how they did it – *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
    - 1. The early church Church planted the seeds of stability in small home churches
      - a. Apostle's doctrine - Christ – the Word – eternal, absolute truth – universal!
      - b. Fellowship – convocation – *koinonia* – partnership to touch culture!
      - c. Prayer – strategic prayer – soften the gates (authority) of hell... they crumble!
    - 2. Consider Paul the Apostle who *turned a forbidden faith into triumph*  
*“He (Apostle Paul) was the most significant Christian convert of all time.”*
      - a. He championed an “apostolic doctrine” – spreading universal truths
      - b. Fundamental doctrines on who God is, who we are, and who Christ is...
      - c. “Apostolic” meaning beyond the individual or church, the Kingdom (ultimate)
- II Apostolic Doctrine – the **sovereign providence of God directs all of history, including today!**
- A. They continued *steadfastly* in the “apostle’s doctrine”
    - 1. The Greek is *proskartereo* meaning “devoted, attentive, unremitting, persevering”
    - 2. This means to constantly rehearse these truths so we remain stable and constant
  - B. The “apostle’s doctrine” – ex. first sermon which was taught about God, man, Christ...
    - 1. Acts 2:16-17 – God has fulfilled prophecy in your day! *I will pour out my Spirit*
    - 2. Acts 2:21 – Whoever (man a sinner) *calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*
    - 3. Acts 2:22,36 – Jesus of Nazareth, *whom God raised up... both Lord and Christ*
    - 4. Acts 2:34 – it was Apostolic - universal - *till I make your enemies your footstool*
  - C. God is orchestrating a plan to *defeat* his enemies as the Church exalts Christ (Ro. 8:19)
    - 1. Doctrine of God’s Providence – God the primary and man a secondary cause...
    - 2. Genesis 50:20 – *you may have meant it for evil, but God meant it for good*
    - 3. Psalm 23:5 – *you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies*
    - 4. Romans 8:28 – *all things work together for good... those called to His purpose*
    - 5. Eph. 1:10-11 – *...predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things (even evil things) according to the counsel of His will...*
    - 6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:9 – *God puts a limit on evil – exposing its folly for all to see*
    - 7. Psalm 104:1-9 – *God is high above all, limits on creation (O Worship the King)...*