

Pillars of restoration #3

Mt. 24:14, Is. 9:7, Acts 19:20, Phil. 1:12, Col. 1:5-6, Rev. 14:4-7, 15

I. Intro. – “Signs of the Times”

- A. “Teach me Your Way” – Ex. 33:13, Ps. 86:11
- B. “All over the world people just like us!”
- C. Historical Context: 1) the world 2) the church (paradigms and waves) 3) Kairos-eschaton

II. The New Apostolic Paradigm:

- A. Definition: Paradigm – an outstandingly clear or typical example, pattern; based on shifts in what the Church understands to be its mission in the world.
 - 1) a new way of living as Christians
 - 2) a new way of being the Church of Jesus Christ in the world
- B. Characteristics – What’s New?: Name, Authority Structure, Leadership Training, Ministry Focus, Worship Style, Prayer Forms, Financing, Outreach, Power Priorities
- C. Governing Principles:
 - 1) Incarnational Mission and Service
 - 2 Pet. 1:3-4, Jn. 1:12-14, 1 Tim. 3:26A, Rom 10:15, 1 Jn. 1:1, 3:1-3
 - Definition: Incarnate – to clothe with flesh; to embody in flesh to typify; in surgery – the process of healing wounds and renewing flesh
 - a) The Dominant Characteristic
 - b) Institutional Maintenance

Negative Fruit of the Christendom Paradigm

- 1. The “Called Out” become the “Called In”
- 2. The Church, World and Roman empire are unified
- 3. All Mission moved inside the Church and became the responsibility of a few

Focus and energy On:

- 1. Strengthening their power structures
- 2. Defining their dogmas and practices
- 3. Establishing their denominational identities
- 4. Persecuting or harassing others
- 5. Developing programs and activities oriented inward

Our adjustments

- A) A new priority of context over structure – turned out, addressing the world and its needs
 - B) More concerned with spreading the message of redemption than doctrine
 - C) Little emphasis on Church prestige, energy directed to making the Kingdom a reality amidst human circumstances.
 - D) Interested in Spiritual power not political power.
 - E) We have an agenda and Biblical ambition – not activities, but obedience and commitment to God and His mission.
- 2) Requires Great Humility (Phil. 2, Acts 20:19)
 - a) See yourself as a slave of Jesus Christ
 - b) Never Take Glory for yourself
 - c) Understand your need for accountability and submission