

- 1 Peter 4:17, GW – (17) *The time has come for the judgment to begin, and it will begin with God's family...*
- God holds His church in each city accountable for the condition of that city
- a) The Apostolic 5-Fold Eldership
 - Ephesians 4:11-13, GW – (11) *He also gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. (12) Their purpose is to prepare God's people, to serve, and to build up the body of Christ. (13) This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith and in our knowledge about God's Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.*
 - Acts 2:14, GW – (14) *Then Peter stood up with the eleven apostles. In a loud voice he said to them, "Men of Judea and everyone living in Jerusalem! You must understand this, so pay attention to what I say.*
 - When the church was born in Acts 2, only the apostles were in place. And they all understood their apostolic purpose, and the apostolic purpose of the church.
 - When new people were born again into the church, they were immediately taught their apostolic mission.
 - Acts 2:42, GW – (42) *The disciples were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.*
 - In the 1st century, when the apostles raised up and released apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, they were all sent out with an apostolic, or take-over mindset!
 - In the 20th century, when the pastors raised up and released apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, they were all sent out with an pastoral, or care for the flock mindset!
 - BUT It's a new day! ... It's time to cross-over
 - Our thinking, our strategies, and our methods have to change
 - First, from pastoral, to apostolic

PREPARING TO CROSS OVER

Part 1 - How The Church Lost Influence

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INTRODUCTION: A NEW SEASON OF REDEMPTION

- Joshua 1:1-3, GW – (1) *After the death of the LORD'S servant Moses, the LORD said to Moses' assistant Joshua, son of Nun, (2) "My servant Moses is dead. Now you and all these people must cross the Jordan River into the land that I am going to give the people of Israel. (3) I will give you every place on which you set foot, as I promised Moses.*
- Redemption: both a going out of, and a coming into
- Changes required:
 1. **Thinking – From Follower To Leader**
 2. **Strategy – From Survival To Victory**
 3. **Methods – From Wandering to Occupation**

THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS

- Religion
 - Family
 - Education
 - Government
 - Arts & entertainment
 - Media
 - Business

SO WHAT HAPPENED???

- Liberalism, leading to 3 main reactions:

1. Fundamentalism Reaction

- “Get saved, get water baptized, go to church, and get ready for heaven”

2. Holiness Reaction

- “Come out and be separate”

3. Escapist Eschatology

- “Just hang on until the rapture”

OUR FEEBLE ATTEMPTS TO WIN SOCIETY BACK

1. Overt – Visible - Invasion – Big Public Events

2. Covert – Invisible – Undercover – Strategic Private Influence

- While we were using the World’s method, with no results, the world was using the Biblical method, and making even greater inroads into society!

5 STEPS TO REGAIN INFLUENCE – 5 MINDSET CHANGES

1. Pastoral To Apostolic

b) The Apostolic Leaders

- Literal Meaning: “Apostle” (Greek = apostolos) = “a sent one”, “one sent with a purpose”
- Greek Cultural Meaning: The key commander of a navy, an admiral
- Roman Cultural Meaning: A representative of the Roman Empire, who was sent to expand the borders of the Empire of Rome, by colonizing or conquering new territory.

- The early church apostles knew that they were charged with the task of expanding the Kingdom of God, and bringing new territories under the subjection of the rule of Jesus’s Kingdom

- Acts 1:6, GW – (6) *So when the apostles came together, they asked him [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

c) The Apostolic Church

- Matthew 16:18, GW – (18) *You are Peter, and I can guarantee that on this rock I will build my church [Ekklesia]. And the gates of hell will not overpower it.*

- Literal Meaning: “Church” (Greek = ekklesia) = “called out ones”

- Greek Cultural Meaning: “A group, a crowd, an assembly”

- Acts 19:32, GW – (32) *Some people shouted one thing while others shouted something else. The crowd [ekklesia] was confused. Most of the people didn't even know why they had come together.*

- Acts 19:39, GW – (39) *If you want anything else, you must settle the matter in a legal assembly [ekklesia].*

- Roman Cultural Meaning: An appointed group of people in a specific city, personally responsible for the condition of that city, and having to give an account to the Roman apostle, whenever he came to town. They were actually accountable for the political, moral, financial, economic, physical and spiritual condition of the city.

- Matthew 16:18, GW – (18) *You are Peter, and I can guarantee that on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell will not overpower it.*

- The early church understand that they were responsible for the condition of their city.