****July 10, 2016**

**Staying Stable in Unstable Times – Part 1**

**Intro questions:**

* Feeling overwhelmed by what’s going down in the world today?

-Should we fight for ‘social justice’, or hunker down into a ‘fortress’?

**Quick observations in the light of the** **current instability:**

* PC culture: a form of intimidation designed to shut God’s people down.
* There is puppet master who directs the evil world system:
* People will look to **changing ‘systems’** before they will change their hearts.
* Only an **injection** of ‘righteousness with exalt the nation’ once again.

**We can do this!**

* Through Christ we have God’s **perspective** and His **purposes** set before us.

**2 Timothy 3:1-4 (The way things are – we are sober minded).**

# **Hebrews 12:27-29 (God’s purposes are unfolding)**

* His purpose to plant us on unshakeable ground.
* His covenant with us is based on His faithfulness to keep His promises.

**Insights from a character study of Peter:**

* Peter was called by Jesus **when** he was an unstable, impulsive & earthy.
* **Name changed** from ‘Simon’: the ‘hearer’ to ‘Peter’: the rock.
* The Bible **reveals things as they really are**, not papering up the cracks.
* The degree of his instability was **not always apparent** to Peter.
* Remember, **the world in AD 30** was much like ours:
* **Jesus came** to **seek and save mankind** from the **internal condition** of sin.

**The Peter Syndrome:**

Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23

* Keys: ‘revelation of His ‘person’ / ‘purpose’ / ‘participation’ & then ‘price’.
* Peter then gives what he thinks is reasonable advice.

-Promptly goes from being ‘on the ball’ to ‘off the wall’.

(The Peter syndrome)

* We will look into how Jesus..

-Built **relationship** with Peter

-Instilled **character** in him.

-Empowered him with **gifts** him to fulfill his purpose.

-Released him into his **function of service**.

**Key ‘take aways’**

* The person and promises of God are the ‘stability of our times.’ **Isaiah 33:6 / Isaiah 26:3**
* A lot of what is involved is a mind game.

**Notes**

****