

Pastors Perspective December 2022

“The Greatest Reset of All”

By Pastor Tim White

“Where are you?” was the first question recorded in the Bible from the Creator (Gen. 3:9). We can assume that the Creator knew exactly where Adam and Eve were hiding, so His question inquired about something more profound than their geographic location. Imagine the possible tone in God’s voice as He called out to Adam that evening in the Garden. There must have been a deep sense of sorrow and grieving in His voice, for He knew something was broken.

Our “first parents” walked away from trusting God when they believed (put their faith in) the serpent’s lies about the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” and the costs of eating its fruit. Consequently, having turned their backs on trusting God, a dreadful understanding of sin and all its evil desires entered their lives.

Adam and Eve undoubtedly agonized over their foolishness, but it was too late, and all they could think to do was hide. I am sure they would have done anything to have a “reset” to how things were before their disobedience, but there was no going back. The damage was done.

As a pastor for the last 40 years, I have seen a lot of things others would not (or rarely see). I have seen many people on their deathbeds, some dying in considerable pain, causing their facial expressions and body positions to be contorted and somewhat grotesque. As much as I may try, I cannot “un-see” those final “poses” of death.

Similarly, once creation’s first husband and wife had their eyes opened to know evil, they couldn’t “un-see” it either. It has been the same for all humanity ever since. We do not have to believe in the God of the Bible to know the difference between good and evil. Whether beating a dog or stealing a child’s lunch money, we instinctively know what evil looks like. Our Founding Fathers referred to it as “Natural Law.”

What were Adam and Eve to do? How could they get back the innocence they had at the beginning before they knew evil? Unfortunately, there was no way back for them. It was impossible to “reset” what was now corrupted within them or restore the relationship they had lost. Instead, they needed a “Great Reset” from someone greater and more powerful.

At Christmas time, we celebrate the moment God initiated His Great Reset as prophesied throughout the Old Testament. For example, Isa. 7:14 is about the virgin birth, Micah 5:2 is about Jesus being born in Bethlehem, and Isa. 53 is about Christ bringing forgiveness and salvation through his sacrifice in our place. When the “fullness of time came,” Jesus Christ stepped forward, took our guilty sentence upon Himself, and sacrificed his life to pay for our sins. Then He defeated death when He rose on the third day.

When Jesus died in our place, He fulfilled the required punishment for breaking the Law of God. And now “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord” in “repentance and faith” will be saved (Acts 2:21, Rom 6:23, Titus 2:11). Through Christ, God has “reset” His eternal purpose – to restore a living relationship with Him. Therefore, the central message of Christmas is that we can be reconciled to God.

God the Creator and our Father in Heaven loved us so much that He sent His son, miraculously born of a virgin in a stable (likely a cave) in Bethlehem, to accomplish the “Greatest Reset of All Time” (John 3:16-17).

And so, as I began, the question was, “Where are you?” Where are you in your heart and mind right now? In whom or what do you put your faith and trust? I pray that if you do not call Jesus “Lord and Savior,” you will see your need to receive His gift of forgiveness and mercy through repentance and faith.

I close with 1 Peter 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” May you know His great mercy and living hope this Christmas and into the New Year. And for those with an empty seat at the table this year, may God’s comfort be deeply felt as you remember your absent loved One.

Note: For the January 2023 column: I hope to address what the Bible has to say about the other (not-so) “great reset” promoted by godless globalists and billionaires around the planet. Should Christians pay attention to their plans? What should be the Church’s posture these days?–

Final note: Thank you to all who have expressed appreciation for this column – it means more to me than you know. And a special thank you to Loren Grube, the Owner/Publisher of the South Stevens County Times for allowing me to exercise my love for writing and God’s Truth over these past two years. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!