

FROM OUR PASTOR

April 9, 2016

Warm Sabbath Greeting to Everyone!

This week one of largest scandals in human history surfaced. Of course, the US media was preoccupied with the elections so, as usual, ignored the real story. This new development may turn out to have a huge impact in years to come.

Remember these three words: *The Panama Papers* What are they? A 2.4 terabyte leak of documents from a Panama-based law firm called Mossack Fonseca. Twelve million documents in all. This is a much larger data leak than both WikiLeaks and the Snowden files. Most important, it regards something we have always known, but have struggled to prove: the rich and celebrated hide their money in secret offshore tax shelters. Many well-known world leaders and office holders are named. The Prime Minister of Iceland was the first to resign as a result of the information on him being made public.

South African Journalist Richard Poplak posted an observation this week: “welcome to one of the biggest stories of our time. The leaks reveal just how the planet’s wealthiest and most powerful citizens hide their money – trillions of it – in offshore tax shelters like the British Virgin Islands or the Seychelles with the help of law firms in swampy backwaters like Panama. Over 11-million horribly incriminating documents, and this is *just one* – if one of the more prominent – of the many law firms specializing in this line of work.”

There are hundreds of international banks is based in these small “nations” that are used by the rich to hide income and not pay taxes in their own country. The little people pay, the rich play. Likely more information will be revealed in the days to come. The result of this will be to fuel resentment against the rich, and increase calls for a new world system. One more reason to support the coming Beast of Revelation 13.

But don’t hope for any real changes. The events of the 2008-2009 financial crisis revealed just now the rich and powerful take care of themselves first when they are publically shown to be guilty of dishonesty and corruption.

Our Creator knew about this less than one percent of the population that would be controlling the world’s wealth thousands of years ago. Revelation 18:9 tells us, “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her...” When the Beast is destroyed, those who have been living like royalty will weep and wail. “The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing . . .”

The Panama Papers are one of the most significant leaks of all time. There are surprises galore in what promises to be the biggest continuing news story of our time.

Rex Sexton
Pastor, UCG Portland

