

The Remnant

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6/30/2024



For Discussion: A Remnant May Be Cheap And Worthless By The World's Standards, But Not By God's (harbingersdaily.com, Dean Dwyer, 3/29/2024)

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...to God, those He considers "remnants" are assigned a high value indeed, since He sets them aside to undertake His high and holy calling. Likewise, the remnant church may be hated by the world and disliked by Laodicean-era churches, but God has a distinct purpose for them.

<https://harbingersdaily.com/a-remnant-may-be-cheap-and-worthless-by-the-worlds-standards-but-not-by-gods/>

How do we usually use the word "remnant"?

A remnant is something that forms part of a larger portion, usually thought of in the negative sense. In other words, remnants may be looked upon as scraps.

- remnant food from a meal may be destined for the rubbish bin.
- Remnant material from making garments may also be considered worthless and therefore discarded.

What does God think of remnants?

God considers "remnants" are assigned a high value, since He sets them aside to undertake His calling.

- Likewise, the remnant church may be hated by the world and disliked by Laodicean-era churches, but God has a distinct purpose for them.

How did God demonstrate His mercy in always having a remnant?

Isaiah 1:9 – *Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.*

Even in the midst of His judgement, God showed mercy to His people. Some would survive the judgement and restoration would follow through His work in the remnant.

- This is also a concept Paul referred to in Romans 9:27-29 when he points to a small remnant that would survive the Tribulation Period and enter into the Millennial Kingdom.

This implies that great multitudes of the Israelites would be cast off. If only a remnant was to be saved, many must be

lost, and this was just the point which Paul was endeavoring to establish.

Where else have we seen God's remnant in Scripture?

Noah and his family were the remnant saved out of the millions on the earth before the flood (Genesis 6). Only Lot and his two daughters survived the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19).

Elijah... after escaping from Jezebel, he told God he was alone in his faithfulness to Him (1 Kings 19:10).

1 Kings 19:18 – *Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.*

God has always had a faithful remnant.

In Isaiah 10 the story is told of the Lord's judgment upon the Assyrians.

- In verse 12 God says, *"I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes."* He continues in verses 17-18: *"The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars. The splendor of his forests and fertile fields I will completely destroy, as when a sick man wastes away."*
- God then relates how His people will turn back to Him as a result of this tremendous display of His strength—His utter destruction of most of Assyria: *"In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God"* (Isaiah 10: 20, 21).
- He goes on to assure the remaining Israelites that they need not fear the Assyrians, for soon He will destroy them.

Is God's remnant important today?

The concept of the remnant provides a proper foundation upon which we are able to view this present moment in history.

- There is a great deal parading under the guise of biblical Christianity that is certainly not biblical or of Christ.
- On God's remnant seeks to live out their faith in a biblical, holy and meaningful way.

Jesus made it clear that this remnant would be small when compared to the number of people on the earth throughout history...

Matthew 7:13-14 – *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and confined is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

Why do so many Christians not have a consistently biblical worldview?

A biblical worldview is one's total conception of the world from a biblical standpoint. It's a Christian's basic belief system about the meaning of life, the nature of God, the source of truth, and other foundational concepts. Yet many Christians' worldview is not biblically consistent. They may approach some issues from a biblical viewpoint, but not every issue.

Why do so many people lack knowledge of what the Bible says?

They do not know the Word. If someone doesn't know what the Bible says about the sanctity of human life, for example, it will be difficult for him to form a biblical view on the subject. For the uninformed, education is the key.

Why do so many people reject what the Bible says on certain issues?

The Barna Group conducted a survey asking questions about the Bible to determine if people believed what the Bible said. The results were startling: only 4 percent did. Professed Christians did not fare much better.

- If a professed Christian does not believe what the Bible says, it will be impossible for him to have an authentic biblical worldview.

What does it reveal that so many Christians do not have a biblical worldview?

They are more concerned with what the world thinks of them than what God thinks...

Proverbs 29:25 – *Fear of man will prove to be a snare*
A believer who views the world from a biblical standpoint recognizes that he is not of the world...

John 15:19; 17:14 – *Jesus said, “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not*

belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you”

When a believer starts making compromises with the world's way of thinking, he loses focus on God's perspective.

What is the prophetic significance of so many not having a biblical worldview?

Apostasy...

1 Timothy 4:1 – *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*

They are influenced by the lies of the world.

Matthew 24:4-5 – *Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*

Also, they are lukewarm in their commitment to Christ. Like the church of Laodicea, they are *“neither cold nor hot”* (Revelation 3:15), unwilling to take a stand for Christ.

How do Satan's lies about God's Word impact having a biblical worldview?

From the time of Adam and Eve, Satan has used his ability to deceive and confuse (Genesis 3:1-6; Revelation 12:9). A powerful tool in Satan's arsenal is the idea that the Bible is a book of myths, that it's full of errors and not to be trusted. Satan wishes to convince people that the Bible is no longer relevant; its laws and principles are obsolete.

What can we do to improve our biblical worldview?

Take more time to read, study, share, and apply the Bible to our lives.

So, what is the remnant like?

Hebrews 11 paints a clear picture...

- Abel who offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
- Enoch who was raptured because he pleased God
- Noah who was saved from the flood
- Abraham who followed the Lord even though he knew not where he was going
- Moses who by faith *“forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

The sobering reality is that being part of the remnant involves faith, courage and endurance...

Hebrews 11:35-38 – *Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy.*

What did God have to say about the Hebrews 11 heroes of the faith?

Mankind's estimates of these heroes of the faith was such a low one that they persecuted them, arrested them, tortured them and in some cases, killed them. But God said that *the world was not worthy* of these people!

What does today's world think of God's remnant?

Today's world doesn't think we are worthy to be here either, but for a very different reason – they despise our faith and the God we are faithful to. The Apostle Paul faced a similar sentiment when speaking about his ministry to the Gentiles in the presence of his Jewish brethren.

Acts 22:22 – they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!”

He also made these comments about what the Jewish religious leaders thought of his ministry to the Gentiles:

1 Corinthians 4:12-13 – And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

The world may claim we are weak and small, but through the Apostle Paul, we are reminded that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty (1 Corinthians 1:27).

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- It is great to be part of God's remnant.
- The remnant has a biblical worldview; not having one makes us no different from the world.
- The remnant will suffer persecution; be ready!
- The world is not the home of the remnant