

The Remnant

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[0:00] I wonder, have you ever felt alone, outnumbered? I can look back as a young boy, eight and a half, I set foot in this country and I was outnumbered by people who talked funny.

It was Coronation Street, high accent. And I felt a bit outnumbered, I felt like I was in the minority and everyone else was talking funny, talking wrong.

But as tends to happen when you're outnumbered, you tend to just join in and go along. So my accent has been lost, I've lost that heritage of that wonderful Pommie accent that I have.

Feeling alone. Being in the minority. I want to talk about the remnant, the remnant that's in the Bible. Now surveys have found, if you get 100 Christians together, 100 churchgoers, surveys say only 15 of them regularly read the Bible they claim to believe.

15. 35 never read the Bible at all. Apart from coming to church and opening it then. And just 50%, half of them read God's Word occasionally.

[1:41] Occasionally. Pretty bad statistics, isn't it? No wonder then that churchgoers, of churchgoers, only 63% believe the Bible is completely accurate.

63%. Only 55% believe that Jesus Christ was sinless. Only 48% believe Satan is real. 57% believe that good works play a part in gaining eternal life.

57% believe that God has been able to do good works to get eternal life. 57% believe that churchgoers think. And only 10%, 10% cite the Bible as the primary basis for their worldview and behaviour.

Only 10% guide their lives by what the Bible actually says. Why so? Why is this going on? What's happening? Friends, the majority are off track.

Many are not saved even in the churches. And it starts with biblical illiteracy. Because they've lost the Bible and obeying it, they lack spiritual discernment which leads to falling for false teaching which leads to a careless attitude about sin and life.

[2:56] and we see the world we're living in is just overwhelmed by rampant worldliness and materialism. By and large the church is far, far away from God and His Word, astray from His truth and meanwhile we're lurching ever forwards towards Judgment Day.

There's a lack of truth. It feels like we're in a wasteland of falsehood and unbelief. It's like we're on our own. It feels like that, doesn't it?

Sometimes we feel really outnumbered. Like we're the only ones left. Elijah felt like that. Elijah felt like that. In 1 Kings 19 verse 10 it says in part, He says, Lord, I only am left.

He'd lost heart so much. He says, Lord, I only am left. But the good news is that right through the Bible record we see a remnant.

A remnant. This golden thread right through the Bible record, through the history record. A faithful remnant that God has preserved and kept.

[4:09] The concept, the doctrine, the idea of a remnant is right through the Bible. Someone reckoned it's found some 540 times.

It's very prevalent. It's a recurring theme. It's a recurring theme. There is a remnant of God's people. Right through. Right through the scripture. Right through church history.

God has a remnant people. A faithful people. Though they be few. Though they be outnumbered. Though they be in the minority. A remnant chosen people.

A godly remnant is always there. Right through history. Across thousands of years. The remnant is there. God's faithful. The majority forsake the truth.

While the minority hold it fast. It was like that in Elijah's day. Elijah thought he was the only one left. But the Lord showed him. In verse 18 of 1 Kings 19.

[5:07] There's still thousands there. There's 7,000. Still. Of my people. God says. It was still a minority. Against the thousands. Of the time.

But it was an encouragement to Elijah. In 1 Kings 19. Verse 18. God says. Yet. Have I left me. 7,000. In Israel.

All the knees which have not bowed unto Baal. And every mouth which have not kissed him. 7,000. Had not bent the knees to Baal. The false idol gods.

Friends. You are not on your own. It might feel like that sometimes. You feel like Elijah. Lord. I only am left. God says.

There are others faithful. Others who have not bent the knee to Baal. Will we be in that number. In that 7,000. Will we be a part of that band.

[6:04] That are reserved unto God. Devoted to him. He's true. So what is this remnant? What is this all about? It speaks of that which remains.

The remnant is that which remains. In other words. Those who continue faithful. See God's original truth. And we see this truth. Right through the pages of scripture.

God's holy people. God's faithful ones. Romans 11. Verses 3. Through it says. Lord they have killed thy prophets. And dig down on altars.

And I am left alone. And they seek my life. Verse 4. But what saith the answer of God unto him. Unto Elijah. He says. I have reserved to myself 7,000 men.

Who have not bowed to me. To the image of Baal. Baal was the false idol worship of the day. Even so that at this present time also.

[7:01] There is a remnant. According to the election of grace. A remnant. God has in his grace. Made of his own people. Even in Elijah's day.

God had a faithful number. God's chosen. A Bible teacher. J. Vernon McGee said. Always only a remnant. Was faithful to him. God always preserved a remnant.

Actually. It was a remnant. Of those which came out of Egypt. That entered the land. Practically the entire generation. That came out of Egypt. Died in the wilderness.

It was their children. Who entered the land. God preserved a remnant. End quote. So down through that long history. Of Israel. There was never 100% of the nation.

Who worshipped God. And God made a distinction. Between the nation. The national Israel. And the spiritual Israel. Which was really much smaller number.

[7:59] That was within the nation. But thank God. For faithful witnesses. To the Lord. And friends. As we come closer. To the second coming.

Of the Lord Jesus. As we come closer. To his returning. We see. We see. That there is still. A remnant today. At our Lord's first coming. We see.

In Luke 2. Verse 38. That the Lord Jesus. Came to them. That looked for redemption. In Jerusalem. He came to them. And there was such people there.

People such as. Simeon. Anna. Zacharias. Elizabeth. Mary. John the Baptist. These were they. Who believed God's promises. Even in that land. In that time.

In that time frame. And then as our Lord Jesus. Started his ministry. There was that little band. It was only very small. In number. That took on. The whole.

[8:53] Mighty Roman Empire. And the Lord Jesus. Says to them. In Luke 12. 32. Fear not. Little flock. For it is. Your father's good pleasure. To give you.

The kingdom. The Lord Jesus. Called. His faithful band. A little flock. Of which he was. The shepherd. Yet after three years. Of preaching. And ministry. There was just.

120. In the book of Acts. That worshipped his name. And then the church. Blossomed. From there. But still. Only a few. In the scheme. Of world history.

And then we see. Right through. Church history. The record of church history. There's some astonishing things. We can read. Fox's book of martyrs. For one. We can see. The period of decline.

Through the dark ages. Through the time of great persecution. And ignorance of the Bible. Where many were. Not able to access the scriptures. It was just reserved to.

[9:49] The select. Priests. Of the day. Doctrine was obscured. Vital truth was lost. Including. The truth of salvation. By. By. God's grace.

Through faith. It was replaced. With. Some. Crazy. Emphasis. On works. As if that had. Anything to do. With. The saving. Of a man's soul.

And to. The submission. To a pope. And his errors. By. By God's grace. Even through. That dreadful time. Of the inquisition. Of the dark ages. Where.

There was only a. Remnant of Christians. That was saved by grace. Through faith alone. This band of. Faithful believers. Held fast. In that. Trust.

In Christ alone. For their salvation. And these faithful ones. Were persecuted. To their deaths. By the church of Rome. On one crusade.

[10:43] Sixty thousand. Men. Women. And children. Were slaughtered. In the French town. Of Bazeas. Wiping out. The entire population. Of true Christians.

Under the instruction. Of Pope Innocent III. In 1209. He had a good name. Didn't he? Slaughtered. Maybe he was slaughtered. In the ignorance.

Of that time. And numbers of people. Defected from the truth. Friends. It's always been the case. The remnant.

The remnant. At the coming of Christ. There will be. A remnant. A remnant. A faithful. Few. As it was.

At his first coming. The leaders of the nation. Rejected him. And crucified him. It has always been. A remnant. In Romans 11.

[11:41] We see. Paul says. How there is a remnant. According to the election. Of grace. God. In his mercy. And grace. Extends pardon. To a remnant.

A faithful number. And in Romans 9. 27. It says. That a remnant. Shall be saved. Thank God for that. God's remnant. Are his own special people. Specially purchased.

And made his own. And we see that number. Small in number. Yet always there. Always present. Through world history. For God to do something.

Through his own people. He had a plan. And a purpose for them. Let's look back. Through the pages of scripture. To just see. Some more references. To these ones.

At the time of the great flood. In Genesis 6 verse 7. The Lord said. I will destroy man. Whom I have created. From the face. Of the earth.

[12:37] But it goes on. Two verses later. In Genesis 6 verse 8. But. Noah. Found grace. In the eyes.

Of. The Lord. The remnant was there. In the person of Noah. At this time of judgment. Noah was a just man. And perfect. In his generations.

In other words. He was on track. He was righteous. He walked with God. Noah was there. Just Noah. And his family. He was part of that very small remnant.

That God preserved from the flood. What do we see in Genesis 6. After 120 years. Of faithful preaching and warning. By Noah.

Only eight. Only eight. People. Noah and his family. Only eight. Were the remnant. Saved out of the millions. On earth.

[13:35] Before the flood. And Genesis 7. 23. Says. How. Everything was destroyed. Yet. Noah. Only. Remained alive.

And they. Were with him. In the ark. The remnant was saved. It was in the ark. A place of safety. Which speaks to us. Of the Lord Jesus. Who is the ark. Our only salvation.

Our only hope. Of God's mercy. Is to be sheltered. To be found. In the ark. Then we move to Abraham's day. One family.

Obtained mercy. Abraham was called out of earth. Of the Chaldees. He became God's remnant. On earth. It's been said that one. Plus God.

Makes a majority. One. And God. Makes a majority. And also. Someone said. It's far better. To be. In the minority. With God.

[14:32] Than in the majority. Without him. Abraham heard the awakening call. Get thee out of thy country. And from thy kindred. From thy father's house.

Unto a land. That I will show thee. And I will make thee a great nation. And I will bless thee. And make thy name great. And thou shalt be a blessing.

Genesis 12. 1 through 2. Abraham faithfully followed. God's directions. At another time. Later then. Abraham interceded for his nephew.

Lot. His nephew Lot. Was in the city of Sodom. With his family. And God told Abraham. He would spare the city. If there were just ten.

Just ten. Righteous citizens in that city. Of several thousand. Genesis 18. Verse 32. In the end. Only Lot.

[15:28] Was saved. And his two unmarried daughters. Lot's wife was encrusted with salt. Lot's other children perished. In Sodom. Only Lot. And his two daughters.

Survived Sodom. And Gomorrah. It was only. A very small. Remnant. In Joseph's time. God also preserved a remnant.

In Genesis 45. Verse 7. Joseph. In revealing who he was. As he spent time. Garbed as the Pharaoh. The son of the Pharaoh.

And he revealed his identity. To his brothers. As they came. To seek. Help. In the time of famine. Genesis 45. Verse 7. Joseph says.

God sent me before you. To preserve you. A posterity. In the earth. And to save your lives. By a great deliverance. God preserved Joseph. To be.

[16:25] The remnant. Of his people. Out of that land. Then. They were led. By the hand of Moses. Moses. Moses. Took that. Number.

That were left. Of God's children. The children of Israel. There were some. 600,000. Who left Egypt. 600,000.

Left Egypt. And crossed the Red Sea. But only two men. Crossed the Jordan. Of 600,000. Only two men. Crossed the Jordan.

In Numbers 14. Verse 2. We see how the whole nation. Gangged up against. Four righteous men. It says in Numbers 14. To all the children of Israel.

Murmured. Against Moses. And against Aaron. And then Joseph and Caleb. Also. Were attacked. They were the righteous remnant. Four men.

[17:19] In 600,000. So only two. Joshua and Caleb. Survived the wilderness. They were the remnant.

Later we see the remnant. In Gideon's day. His little band. Of only 300. Against the mighty forces. Of the Midianites. In Judges 7. The same thing.

With King Asa. In 2 Chronicles 14. 11. He faced a million strong army. The largest on record. He was badly outnumbered. It says.

Asa cried unto the Lord. His God. And said. Lord it is nothing. With thee to help. Whether with many. Or with them. That have no power. Help us. O Lord our God.

For we rest. On thee. And in thy name. We go against this multitude. O Lord. Thou art our God. Let not man prevail. Against thee.

[18:13] And God wrought. A great victory. For King Asa. When you're in the minority. With God. You can know God's power.

You might feel outnumbered. You might feel like you're on your own. You might feel like you're in the minority. Who love God. But God is with you. That's what matters.

His power is with you. As Romans 8.31. It says. If God be for us. Who? Can be against us. If God be for us. Who? Can be against us.

You're in the majority. With God. He is your power. He is your strength. As it was with David. And his small band of outcasts. These were the rejects of the day. You know.

The fish that John West rejected. David had them in his army. They were his men. At arms. And as they contested. With the great army of King Saul.

[19:11] God used that small band. Of David's faithful. We see the same principle of the remnant. In Samuel. And the prophets. And many other occasions.

Where the men and women of God. Stood against the idolatrous majority. And the unfaithful of the land. Multitudes of true believers.

Have been slaughtered. By the institutional church of the day. During the inquisition. Yet they've held fast. They were the remnant. And God still has. In his providence.

And a remnant today. In every generation. And of today. Of now. Of our own day. Brothers and sisters. We too. Can be numbered.

With the faithful. God's remnant people. In this time. Where it seems. Many have abandoned the truth. Where they're ignorant of the Bible. They scarcely open its pages.

[20:05] Let alone understand. What it says. Many churches are filled. With much unbelief. And ignorance of Bible truth. Yet today. There is a remnant.

There is a people. Who love God. Who want to be. His. Even today. It seems like.

The majority. Are wrong. Often that is the case. In Columbus's time. The majority. Believed that the world was flat. You know.

There's many other. Secular examples. You could think. How the crowd. Got it completely wrong. Who would have thought. That. You could get. In a lump of metal. And fly through the air.

You know. That would have been. A big joke. And. Unthinkable. The majority. Is not concerned. With the truth.

[21:02] They want. What is popular. What is easy. What is comfortable. Friends. I urge you today. As God's people. Don't be put off. By the. How things look.

In terms of. The numbers. As it were. As in terms of. How you feel outnumbered. How you feel. Like you're. Pretty much. Standing. Alone. God is seeking.

A remnant. And he works with. The remnant. His own. Safe people. We can take heart. In that today. The righteous ones. So if you're feeling. Alone. Or in the minority.

You're in good company. In good company. God's little band. Is still evident. Right now. In a sin. Darkened world. As we lurch. Ever onward.

To that coming day. Of judgment. The day of his returning. The Lord Jesus. Foretold this time. He says. When the son of man. Cometh. Shall he find. Faith. On the earth. Luke 18.

[22:00] Verse 8. When the multitude. Falls away. Yet the majority. Falls after abominations. Yet. God. Will preserve. His own people. Will we be a part.

Of the remnant. Of the final. Generation. Let me interrupt this. Message. To just check. Is it hot in here?

People okay? It's going to get hotter. It's going to get hotter. How will we recognize the remnant? How will we recognize the remnant in this day? God calls a people.

For himself. God calls a people. Who will leave according to a biblical pattern. He's calling out still. To planet earth. To the human race. He's calling out.

Searching out. A people for himself. What are the features of this remnant? Of this church? Of this people of God? One thing that stands out. Is it is a minority.

[22:57] The remnant is small. As it is written. Many are called. Few. Are chosen. Matthew 22. 14. In other words.

If you're looking for the remnant. If you're looking for the faithful. Don't go looking. For the remnant. In the mega churches. I fear that.

It's scarcely there. Friends. Don't go looking for the remnant. In the popular churches. Of the day. Look for the faithful. Who will hold fast.

God's truth. In Isaiah 1 verse 9. It says. The Lord has left unto us. A very small remnant. Lest we should be. As Sodom. And as Gomorrah.

Friends. There's a narrow gate. Into life. In Matthew 7. 13 through 14. The Lord Jesus speaks of a gate.

[23:56] That is wide. Of a way. That is broad. And where does it lead? Destruction. Yet he says. There is a gate. Narrow. And sure.

That leads to life. And few. There be. That find it. Friends. There's numbers here. You're not on the way yet. You're not through the gate yet.

You don't know Christ yet. It's important. To be sure. You know him. Thank God.

He's still calling out a people. For his name. A remnant. A few. Relatively speaking. When the majority forsake the truth. They don't care less about it.

God's looking for the faithful. The true believers. When the majority are out there. Just recreating. Scarcely a thought.

[24:54] For fellowship. Even the minority. Of the population. Of the population. That is in church. It's only a minority of them.

That are saved. Many are in churches where. They don't get the gospel. They're inoculated. As it were. Against the truth. By hearing. Half truths. So it's only a minority. Within the church going minority. Who are actually genuine believers. And that's not to say.

There's some who don't go to church. Who are saved. But. If you're saved. Why wouldn't you be in church? I don't figure that. But. If you're actually a genuine believer.

You'll want to be. In a sound. Fellowship. The remnant. How will you identify them? The remnant are identified. With the truth.

[25:49] They'll hold fast to the truth. It's been said. Christianity. Is an exclusive religion. It's exclusive. It says that the Bible. And the Bible alone.

Is the truth of God. That's exclusive. Isn't it? That says. Outside of this. There's no hope. Outside of Christ. There's no hope. Of all the millions of books.

In the world. There's only one. That we can rely on. God's remnant people. Will ask the question. When they choose things in life. Is it biblical?

That is what they will ask. Is the biblical authority. For the decisions I make. And they build. Their lives on this truth.

Not on majority opinion. Majority opinion. I mean. Look back to the children of Israel. If they put it to the vote. They wouldn't have voted Moses. To be their shepherd.

[26:45] Friends. We need to be aware. Of such things as this. To identify with the truth. Another characteristic of the remnant.

Is the remnant. Are the separated. The true church is called out. Out. God's people long for another world. A world to come.

A world in which righteousness will dwell. They look to the Lord. He's called them out of iniquity. And purified unto himself. A peculiar people. A special people.

And they will stand fast. As the separated. Even though they be branded. As legalists. As closed minded.

As cultic. Why? Because they care. About what they believe. Friends. We need to be. As God's children.

[27:41] Get out of Egypt. The world. The worldly wise thinking. Out of Babylon. The kind of compromised. Religious system. And flee to Christ.

Flee to Christ. In Revelation 18. In the context. Of the end of the age. There's a voice from heaven. Saying. Come out of her.

My people. That you be not partakers. Of her sins. That you receive not her plagues. The context there. Is of the. Institutional church.

Of the end. Time. Friends. God's people. Have always been. Hunted down. And attacked. By the institutional church.

Of the day. You know. The popular church. Of the day. As we see. In the inquisition time. The dark ages. The bible believers.

[28:36] Were the ones. Who were tortured. And burnt. To death. And. It's not quite. To that extreme today. Yet there is still.

That. Tension. Between. The popular church. And. God's church. The true. Godly. Remnant. Which are in all kinds of churches. Yet.

They are the faithful ones. Who hold fast. They look for that better country. That is a heavenly. They look. For that city. Yet to come. This builder. And maker. Is God. They confess.

That they are strangers. And pilgrims. On the earth. Because God's remnant people. Are refugees. God's remnant people. Are refugees.

We are running. We are fleeing. Like the pilgrim. Of pilgrim's progress. From the city of destruction. Friends. That is why people come to Australia.

[29:33] They are fleeing. From the city. Of destruction. From the danger. From. As much as it is their homeland. It is not a safe land. And we.

Spiritually speaking. Are refugees. Because. Friends. This world. Is the city. Of destruction. It is earmarked. For God's damnation.

And judgment. And we run to Christ. For sanctuary. We run to Christ. For refuge. We are refugees. We are looking for that refuge. Which is Christ.

That place of sanctuary. That place of rest. That place of safety. And friends. God's people. Are everywhere. All around us. Outnumbered.

But they are there. In amongst the world. We live. We are not saying. This is the only true church. Or anything like that. But God's people. Are scattered. Here. There. And everywhere.

[30:28] Amongst numbers of places. And churches. And people. And people. Yet outnumbered. Outnumbered. But thank God. God had Lot.

In Sodom. Even in Sodom. There was one. At least one. Lot. And his two daughters. His righteous soul. Was vexed.

With the abominations. Of the place. God took him out. God said. Get out. And he says that to us today. Leave the world. And its toys. And come to Christ.

Flee to the refuge. That sure art. That sure place of safety. Flee from the city. Of destruction. Be a refugee. Find your refuge. In Christ today.

What of you today? What of you? Are you one of the true believers? As it were. We're not talking about. Political parties. Are you one of the true believers? As it were. True believers.

[31:23] Believers in the truth. Amen. Are you one of them? Whose side are you on? As Moses gave the challenge. At the base of the mountain. When the people were worshipping. The golden calf.

Moses stood in the gate of the camp. And said. Exodus 32. 26. Who is on the Lord's side? Who is on the Lord's side?

Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered. Themselves together unto him. Will you worship the true God? Of vain idols. The God substitutes of this day.

Of this world. Joshua 2 laid down a challenge. Joshua 24. Verse 15. He says. And if it seem evil unto you. To serve the Lord. Choose you this day.

Whom ye will serve. Whether the gods which your father served. On the other side of the flood. The gods of the Amorites. In whose land.

[32:19] You dwell. But as for me. And my house. We will serve the Lord. Moses said it. Joshua said it. Elijah.

Said it. Elijah came to the temple. He said. How long halt you between two opinions? You're like a halting man. Like a lame man. You can't make your mind up straddling the fence.

He says. How long are you going to halt between these two opinions? If the Lord be God. Follow him. If Baal. Then follow him. It's the crunch time.

Who are you going to follow? Are you on the Lord's side? Choose you this day. Whom you will serve. Are you numbered among the remnant?

We're called to come out. To be refugees. To be pilgrims. Strangers here. Peculiar people.

[33:21] God is calling us to be that number of the faithful. In the ages of the Old Testament. Only one nation was called. Of all the nations.

In the worst of times. God has his faithful. Even when the majority are off track. And it's still the same today. In these last days. When the church neglects the Bible.

And it's authority. It creates a spiritual vacuum. It's been said in physics. Nature abhors a vacuum. It's got to fill it. And friends.

When there's a vacuum. When there's an absence of spiritual truth. Then it's like a vacuum. It just sucks everything in. And that's what the church today. Is often.

Falling for. The churches that don't teach the word of God. Are embracing the thinking. And the philosophy of the world. And friends. Thousands of churches today.

[34:20] Are driven. By purposes. That have little or nothing to do. With Christ's purpose. For his church. Better to be part of the scripture.

Driven church. Christ's church. Christ's church. Christ's church. Friends. Be encouraged today. I urge you today. Take stock.

Personally today. We're talking about a remnant. A faithful number. Number. God has his own people. It's God's saving grace.

That counts us among that number. Friends. I urge you today. As the challenge went out. At the foot of the mountain. When the people were. Carrying on like.

Like nutcases. Around the golden calf. The majority was there. Will you stand. With Moses. Will you stand.

[35:16] On the Lord's side. In Elijah's day. When the. Pagan. Priests. Were cutting themselves. And. Carrying. On with all their.

Religious fervor. And excitement. The fire didn't fall. On the pagan. People's sacrifice. The fire of the Lord fell.

On God's sacrifice. And showed. The Lord. He is God. The Lord. He is God. Be a pilgrim. Be a refugee today. And flee to Christ.

Find your refuge. In him. Friends. I've been. Speaking along the line. Of the faithful few. I'm preaching really. To Christians today. But if you're not.

A Christian. You are in the same position. As the. Multitude. That were outside the ark. When destruction came.

[36:11] The only place for safety. Is in Christ. It says that God. Invited. Those. Who.

Would receive. The door was open. Until God shut it. God said. Time's up. One day he'll say that. It wasn't Noah. Who shut the door of the ark. God closed the door.

One day God is going to say. Time's up. The door is shut. No more opportunity to be saved. It's appointed unto man once to die. But after that the judgment.

Friends. I urge you today. Urge you. With every fibre of my being. I urge you today. You don't know. Whether you'll see tomorrow. I urge you today. Come to Christ.

Find your refuge in him. Find your shelter. Find your safety. Find his saving power. In Christ today. Not anything. Of your own working. Of any worldly thinking.

[37:07] Of any church thinking. Find Christ today. The way that is narrow. The gate that is sore. And open still. The door. Christ is the way.

The truth. And the life. Come to Christ. Come to him. Let us pray. Let us pray. Thank you.