

Remnant

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Study by W.D. Frazee—April 2,

We have been studying the wonderful experiences of Elijah and Elisha, and we have noticed the parallels down here today. Elijah and Elisha lived in a time of great apostasy. Baal worship has been applied by inspiration to the turning away from the counsels of God and the exaltation of human reason above the divine revelation. The influence of the applauding of popular leaders, even in the church, is steadily working.

God has a remnant. They were numbered in Elijah's day as seven thousand.

“God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he makes intercession to God against Israel saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to Myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” Romans 11:2-5.

Paul draws a parallel. Back there God had a remnant of 7,000. So today there is a remnant according to the election of grace. At a time of almost universal apostasy God had seven thousand that had not bowed the knee to Baal.

We look at the home of Shaphat in Abelmeholah where Elisha grew up. He grew up serving God. He grew up learning to work and work hard. He was a successful farmer. God called him to be an apprentice to the prophet, Elijah, and carry on the work of the schools of the prophets. That home of Shaphat was a home where the counsels of God were appreciated. And long before they had the least idea that one of their sons would be the prophet in Elijah's place, they were as true to duty as the needle to the pole. They were loyal to the spirit of prophecy in a time of great apostasy.

We look at the home of the little maid that went to Syria with all expenses paid on a student missionary program. There are different ways that people think of it, but that is what happened. Was it successful? Thank God, she did more than see the sights. She gave an example of faithful ministry, working hard and successfully. She made a favorable impression upon her mistress and master, and was used by God to point them to the spirit of prophecy as the channel through which God would bring healing.

Hundreds of years later the Savior referred to it in Nazareth. He said there were many lepers in Israel in the days of Elisha, but not one of them was healed but Naaman, a stranger. Why was he healed? He was healed because of his faith in the spirit of prophecy that was kindled by the testimony of a captive maid, one in seven thousand, that had learned in the home of her parents to be true and loyal in a time of apostasy.

The idea that we must wait until there is a mass movement, either in the world or the church, is altogether foreign to the teaching of the Bible. God wants you and me to stand individually for the truth. He said, I have reserved to Myself 7,000 men who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

At this time there is also a remnant according to the election of grace.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

Remnant means those who remain. They are not restless and jumping after this and that and new ideas. They are settled and established. They stay where God has put them. They stay with the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy.

Another reason that the remnant are so significant is that all the way down through God has had to sift and shake His people. The remnant are those who remain. We have been told that in the great test that is just ahead of us:

“In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 81.

What remains, the wheat or the chaff? What goes out, the wheat or the chaff? Then if you and I want to be among the remnant we must settle down to remain instead of looking here, there, and yonder for something to call us away from God's great principles of truth. Thank God for the pillars and foundations that stand sure and cannot be shaken. People can be shaken out, but the foundation remains certain.

It is marvelous the accuracy of prophecy. There is a prophecy written down by John in the closing years of the first century of the Christian church, and yet it focuses on our time, and it highlights the fact that there are two great things that the Devil is fighting in the remnant church. They are the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Spirit of prophecy. I need not spent time calling your attention that this day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Are you in the line of fire? Soldiers who enlist in war time shouldn't be surprised if they become a target. The flag draws the bullets, but the loyal soldiers do not pull the flag down.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” The remnant means those who remain. They are not shaken out. They remain steadfast. This remnant is according to the election of grace. Suppose we substitute choice for election. Who is it that has chosen the remnant? Christ. He has said, Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you. This is why there is no boasting on the part of the true follower of God. The fact that we find ourselves in God's remnant is no credit to us, but it is a joy and credit to Him. Think what a price He has paid.

Even so then there is a remnant according to the election of grace. Why is it called the election of grace? Grace means unmerited favor. Grace is the manifestation of God's love toward undeserving creatures.

Do we deserve to be a part of God's family? No. Do we deserve to have Him call us into His church? No. Is there anything we have done that merits it? Not a bit. Is there anything we can do to merit it? Not a bit. It is all His favor. Favor is a synonym for grace, but it is a favor of mercy and love. So every one of God's remnant can say:

“Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved the wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.”

So in every last one of the remnant their choice is grace.

Several months ago there was an election for the president of the United States. It happened that Ronald Regan was chosen. Did he have to be president after the election? Could he have resigned?

We say, “Why should he?” That's the point. Why should you and I resign? Ronald Regan was chosen by the voters. God and His Son and the Holy Spirit chose us. And all the holy angels joined with them.

Who is voting against us? Satan. He has millions of angels, but he is in the minority. God has twice as many angels as Satan has. Even if He didn't have any angels, God is still the majority.

And I have been elected to something far more important than the presidency of the United States. I have been elected to be a part of God's remnant that develop His character, vindicate His name in the universe, and welcome Him at His appearing.

Does that mean that I have to? No. But if God has chosen me, what a joy it is that I can choose Him.

The problem of election bothers some people. They have an overtone in their mind gotten from some theological idea outside of the Bible that some people are elected to be lost. Nobody is elected to be lost. The only way a man can be lost is to turn down his election. Every person is free to do that. You are elected to be saved. It is the election of grace, and grace is the divine favor showed toward the undeserving.

So we don't have to present a good report card to be elected. All we have to do is to say, Thank You, Dear Lord, for loving me when I didn't love You, for choosing me when I didn't even know You. And I am going to bring glory to Your name and honor to Your name by accepting Your election.

“The gifts of His grace through Christ are free to all. There is no election but one's own by which any may perish. God has set forth in His word the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life—obedience to His commandments, through faith in Christ. God has elected a character in harmony with His law, and anyone who shall reach the standard of His requirement will have an entrance into the kingdom of glory” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 207.

The sad thing is that there is a theology which teaches that some people are born to be saved, and no matter what they do they are going to be saved. Some people are born to be lost, and no matter what they do they are going to be lost. Both are lies of the enemy. They are to discourage souls or make them complacent. The truth of the matter is that God has elected everyone to be saved, but we have to vote with Him if it does us any good.

“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven” Matthew 7:21.

Thank the Lord, we can all meet the conditions.

“Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” Revelation 22:14.

After quoting this text the prophet says:

“As regards man's final salvation, this is the only election brought to view in the word of God. “Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The provisions of redemption are

free to all; the results of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the condition” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 208.

The only way to miss this election is to refuse to accept its results. I don't want to do that.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” Romans 11:5-6.

The word election as used here means choice. God has chosen us. That is another way of saying He has elected us. I want to read from another translation which brings this out a little clearer:

“So likewise at this present time there is a remnant chosen by gift of grace. But if their choice be the gift of grace, it can no more be deemed the wage of works; for the gift that is earned is no gift, for work claims wages and not gifts.”

In other words, Paul is presenting this great truth that there is no way to earn our election. It is a free gift. It is the gift of God's grace. Grace is not something we deserve.

What would you think if you were working for a man, and at the end of the week he gave you a present, and it was nothing but what you had earned? Is wages the same thing as a present? No. If you earned it, it isn't a gift, and if it is a gift it isn't a wage. That's what Paul is arguing. And he says that as God chooses us it is not something we have earned.

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

The worse man in the world can find acceptance on that program if he will give up his sin. The worse rebel in the army of Satan can be released from it and become a soldier in the army of God if he lays down his arms of rebellion. But God is not in the business of pardoning rebels as long as they cling to their rebellion. But thank God, we don't have to serve in an apprenticeship of gaining some favor.

This moment the worse sinner in the world can come to Jesus and say, Jesus, I hear that you love sinners.

Yes, He says, I gave My life to redeem them.

And thank God, we can be accepted just as if we had never sinned.

Can you think of any better news than that? That is the good news of the Gospel. Christ came into the world to save sinners, and Paul adds, Of whom I am chief.

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me.

Not the wage of works but the gift of grace. What is your salvation? Is it something you earned? No. It is something you received as a gift. It is the election of grace. He didn't choose you because you were good. He chose you because He loved you and needed to reveal His love through you and on to others.

Let's not waste our election. Let's not waste our time looking around trying to find some reason in ourselves why we should be accepted. If you find one, it is a phony.

Thank God, our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. Let's never forget that being a part of God's chosen is a free gift, and based not on anything we could do. When we have been in heaven ten thousand years we will still be singing amazing grace. Praise God. And he who takes that blessed truth and uses it as a cover up for his rebellion has missed the whole point. He doesn't understand it at all. Praise God for deliverance from sin through the free grace of Jesus Christ.

"We owe everything to grace, free grace, sovereign grace. Grace in the covenant ordained our adoption. Grace in the Saviour effected our redemption, our regeneration, and our adoption to heirship with Christ. Let this grace be revealed to others" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 268.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee so much for this amazing grace. We thank Thee that we need not look for one bit of merit in us, past or present. Just as we are we come. The best of us can come no other way, and the worst can come in the same, precious way.

We come like the thief hanging on the cross saying, Lord, Remember me. We come like the publican saying, Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.

We thank Thee for the election of grace. We thank Thee for the choice of Thy loving favor. Not because we are good, but because Thou art good. We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

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W.D. Frazee Sermons
PO Box 102, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org