

Remnant

#0696

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 2, 1982

[The audio of this message includes an entire church service, complete with song service, announcements, etc. We have only transcribed Elder Frazee's sermon from it.]

I'm so glad we're working with the great General Manager Who's running this whole universe for the benefit of each one of us as if that were all He had to do was look after the individual.

If God has brought you here to this meeting tonight, and I believe He has, and you believe it, then He has from long ago planned that a particular point of truth, some promise, some command, some precious instruction from His Word shall bring to your heart increased illumination, deeper conviction, and a glorious experience with God so that you and I can go out these doors tonight to share with others the blessing He shared with us.

You know, if what we were giving tonight were in the matter of physical food, if we were passing out apples or sandwiches and we had an unlimited supply, the amount you'd take home would depend on what? What you brought to carry it in. Wouldn't it be a shame to go home with only what you'd put in your hands if the supply was unlimited?

Oh, dear friends, that God may enlarge our hearts, that He may increase our understanding. That He may deal with us as He longs to.

Now, we've had prayer, and I know that God has heard and He's going to be with us. Let's all open the windows of the soul heavenward.

We begin tonight with the text with which we closed last week, Romans the 11th chapter verses 4–6. We have been studying the wonderful experiences of Elijah and Elisha and have noted the parallels down here today.

Elijah and Elisha lived in a time of great apostasy that's paralleled today. Baal worship has been applied—that term has been applied by inspiration to the turning away from the counsels of God and the exaltation of human reason above divine revelation, the applauding of popular leaders. And that even in the church, as well as in the world, that influence is steadily working.

But last Friday night, we studied God's wonderful assurance that He has a remnant. They were numbered in Elijah's day as how many? Seven thousand. That was our subject last Friday night.

We'll begin reading with the last part of the second verse of Romans 11:

“...Wot ye not what the Scripture saith of Elias?”
Romans 11:2.

That’s Elijah.

“...how he maketh 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.

Notice that Paul draws the parallel. As back there, God had a remnant. How many? Seven thousand. So today, he says:

“...At this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” Romans 11:5.

In a time of almost universal apostasy, God had seven thousand that had not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

We looked at some of those last week—the home of Shaphat in Abelmeholah, where Elisha grew up. He grew up serving God. He grew up learning to work and work hard and be a successful farmer. And God called him to be an apprentice to the prophet, Elijah, and to carry on with Elijah 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.

Then, we noted also the home of the little maid that went to Syria with all expenses paid on a student missionary program. A different way than some people think of it, but that’s exactly what happened. Wasn’t it, friends? Was it successful? Thank God, she did more than see the sights. She gave an example of faithful ministry, working hard and successfully; 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 to Naaman. Did it happen?

Hundreds of years after, the Savior referred to it in His first sermon at Nazareth, you remember. He said there were many lepers in Israel in the days of Elisha, but not one of them was healed but Naaman, the Syrian [a paraphrase of Luke 4:27].

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 that had learned in the

home of her parents (one of the seven thousand) to be true and loyal in a time of apostasy.

The idea that we must wait until there's 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 truth.

He says:

“...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 11:4–5.

Is there a remnant today? Repeat Revelation 12:17 with me, will you?

“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.

I love that word “the remnant,” don't you? Do you know what remnant means? It means those that remain. They're not fidgety. They're not restless. They're not jumping after this and that new-fangled idea. They're settled, established. They stay where God has put them, geographically, if He puts them there geographically. But that isn't the great thing. Theologically, shall I say, and experientially they stay with the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. That's the remnant.

Another reason that this word “remnant” is so significant is that all the way down through, God has had to sift, to shake and to sift His church, His people. The remnant is that which does what? Remain.

We've been told that in the great test that's just ahead of the church, *Volume 5*, page 81:

“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, Volume 5, page 81.

What is it that remains, the wheat or the chaff? The wheat. What is it that goes out, the wheat or the chaff? Chaff. Then, you and I, if we want to be among the wheat, among the remnant, we must settle down to do what? To remain, to remain, instead of looking here, there, and yonder for something to call us away from God's great principles of truth, the church which He has led all this more than a

century. Thank God for the pillars and foundations that stand sure, that cannot be shaken. People can be shaken out, but the foundation remains certain.

“Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages” *Early Writings*, page 258.

What do you say?

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” Romans 11:5.

Will you repeat that Revelation 12:17 with me again?

“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.

You know, friends, it is marvelous the accuracy of prophecy. Here 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 this fact, that there are two great things that the Devil is fighting in the remnant church. What are they? The commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. I need not spent time tonight calling your attention to the fact that:

“...This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears”
Luke 4:21.

Are you in the line of fire? Are you in the line of fire? Soldiers who enlist in wartime shouldn't be surprised if they become a target. The flag draws the bullets, but the loyal soldiers do not pull the flag down to escape being fired upon, do they? Thank God.

Now, I want to look at this Romans the 11th chapter verse 5 a little further tonight because there are some precious, precious truths here:

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” Romans 11:5.

“...A remnant according to the election of grace”
Romans 11:5.

Let's notice that word “remnant.” Let's notice the word “election.” And let's notice the word “grace.”

The remnant we've already looked at. It means those that do what? Remain. They're not shaken out, they're not shaken loose, they're not shaken. They remain steady, steadfast. And this remnant is according to the election of grace.

Now, that word “election,” suppose that we substitute another word for it, which is perfectly proper in this case—“choice.” Who is it that has chosen the remnant? Who? God, Christ, both are correct. Jesus says:

“Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you...”
John 15:16.

This is why there’s no boasting on the part of a true follower of God, only boasting of the mercy he got from the Lord. The fact that we find ourselves in God’s remnant is no credit to us, but it’s a great joy and credit to Him, isn’t it? Think what a price He’s paid.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” Romans 11:5.

Now, why is it called the election of grace? Grace means unmerited favor. Grace is the manifestation of God’s love toward undeserving creatures [a paraphrase of *Ministry of Healing*, page 161].

Do we deserve to be a part of God’s family? No. Do we deserve to have Him call us into His church, His people? 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’s all His favor. That word “grace” and a synonym for it in this sense is “favor,” but it’s a favor of mercy and love, undeserving to us. So, God’s remnant, every one of the seven thousand, can say:

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

Let’s sing it:

“Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.”
Seventh-Day Adventist, #108, first stanza.

Grace, amazing grace. So, the remnant every last one of them, owe their election, their choice to what? Grace, grace.

I was thinking of that word “election.” 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 that? Could he have resigned? Yes.

We say, “Well, why should he?”

That's the point, my friends. Why should you and I resign? Ronald Regan was chosen by the voters. You know who chose us? God, and His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and all the holy angels have joined with them.

Oh, who's voting against us? Satan. But he's in the minority, friends. He's got millions of angels, but he's in the minority. You know that that's so, don't you? How many angels does God have? Twice as many (Revelation 12:3). But even if He didn't have a single angel, God is the majority, isn't He?

My point is this. I have been elected to something far more important than the presidency of the United States. I've been elected to be a part of God's remnant that develop His character here on earth, vindicate His name before the universe, and welcome Him at His appearing. I've been elected to that.

Does that mean that I *have* to, that there's no way that I can get out of it? No, no. But if God has chosen me, what a joy it is that I can choose Him.

The problem of election bothers some people because they have an overtone in their mind, gotten from some theological idea outside of the Bible, that some people are elected to be lost. But nobody's elected to be lost. Thank God, nobody's elected to be lost. The only way a man can be lost is to turn down his election. And every person is free to do that, isn't he? You're elected to be saved. It's the election of what? Grace. And grace is what? Mercy, divine favor shown 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 Lord, I'm going to bring glory to Your name and honor to Your name by accepting Your election."

I want to read this a little to you in the comment in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 207–208. Listen to these wonderful words:

"The gifts of His grace through Christ are free to all"
Patriarchs and Prophets, page 207.

They're what? Free. To how many? To all.

"There is no election but one's own by which any may perish" *Ibid*.

God never predestinated a single soul to be lost. He never elected anybody to lose his way.

"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" *Ibid*.

Let's turn to a few texts that'll help us on this that are quoted here, Matthew the 7th chapter and the 21st verse.

You see, the sad thing is that there is a theology that teaches that some people are born to be saved, and no matter what they do, they're going to be saved. And some people are born to be lost, and no matter what they do, they're going to be lost. Both things are lies of the enemy to either discourage souls or to make them complacent.

The truth of the matter is God has elected everybody to be saved, but we have to vote with Him if it does us any good, don't we?

All right. Matthew 7:21, what does it say:

"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that..." Matthew 7:21.

What?

"...doeth the will of My Father Which is in heaven" Matthew 7:21.

Thank the Lord we can all meet the conditions.

Now, Revelation the 22nd chapter and the 14th verse, what's the first word? "Blessed."

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life..." Revelation 22:14.

They're elected.

"...and may enter in through the gates into the city" Revelation 22:14.

After quoting this text, the Spirit of Prophecy statement from *Patriarchs and Prophets* says:

"As regards man's final salvation, this is the only election brought to view in the Word of God" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 208.

Then, come these four sentences:

"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 proceedeth 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 conditions” *Ibid.*

And how many can be saved? All. How many have been elected? All. The only way to miss this election is to refuse to accept its results. I don’t want to do that, do you?

Now, I want to come back to Romans the 11th chapter, verses 5–6. Will you turn to that, please? Let me repeat what I said a while ago. The word “election,” as used here means choice. God has chosen us. That’s another way of saying He’s elected us.

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election...” Romans 11:5.

Or the choice.

“...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 is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” Romans 11:5–6.

I want to read from one of the other translations and perhaps bring 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...” Romans 11:5–6 (Unknown version).

That is, the fact that they’re chosen—if that’s 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” Romans 11:6 (Unknown version).

In other words, Paul is presenting this great truth and one that we must never forget, that there’s no way to earn our election. It’s a free what? Gift. The gift of His what? Grace. And grace is not something we deserve.

What would you think if you were working for a man in Chattanooga, and at the end of the week, he gave you a Christmas present, and it was nothing but what you’d earned? Just your wages. Is the same thing, wages and 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 God’s choosing us is not something we’ve earned.

Aren't you glad that you and I can accept God's choice without hunting around, hoping we can find some merit or reason in us for it?

"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power."
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #300, first stanza.

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

You see, the worst man in this world can find acceptance on that program if he gives up his sin. The worst 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. Right?

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 an apprenticeship of gaining some favor.

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

"Yes," He says, "I love them so much I gave My life to redeem them."

And thank God, we can be accepted just as if we had not sinned [a paraphrase of *Steps to Christ*, page 62].

Can you think of any better news than that? That's good news. That's the good news of the Gospel:

"...That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." 1 Timothy 1:15.

And Paul adds:

"...of whom I am chief" 1 Timothy 1:15.

"Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me."
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #295, first stanza (partial).

Let me read this again now from Romans 11:5–6.

“So likewise at this present time there is a remnant chosen by gift of grace. But if their being chosen is the gift of grace, it can no more be deemed the wage of works” Romans 11:5–6 (Unknown version).

Notice the contrast. Not the wage of works but the gift of grace. What is your salvation, then? Something you earned? No. It’s something you receive as a what? Gift. That’s the election of grace; that’s God’s choosing you through His grace. He didn’t choose you because you were good. He chose you because He loved you and needed you to reveal His love through you and on to others.

Let’s accept of us election. What do you say? Not wasting our time and God’s time looking around trying to find some reason in ourselves why we should be accepted. If you find one, it’s a phony. I can tell you that, friends. Isn’t that right?

Thank God, “Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.”

“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

[Chorus]
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.”
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #522, first stanza.

Now, dear friends, let’s never forget that that being a part of the remnant, a part of the seven thousand, a part of God’s chosen is a free gift and based not on anything we have done or could do, just as much the first year after we’ve come to God as the first day, and the second one and the third one.

When we’ve been in heaven 10,000 years, we’ll still be singing “Amazing Grace.” Don’t you think so? Praise God, praise God. And he who takes (don’t miss this), he who takes that blessed truth, for it *is* a 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.

In *Volume 6*, page 268, you’ll find words like these. You’ll also find it very similar in *Christ Object Lessons*, 250:

“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*, *Volume 6*, page 268.

Amazing grace, amazing grace.

May we bow our heads?

Oh, 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 there on the cross by Jesus, and say:

“...Lord, remember me...” Luke 23:42.

We come like the publican, saying:

“...God be merciful to me a sinner” Luke 18:13.

And 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.

Now, I’m sure there are many here that would like to say a word. Perhaps those of you who spoke in recent weeks will listen while others have the chance to witness for Jesus.

Let’s make this chapel ring with the praises of our heavenly King. What do you say?

Just come right up and take this front seat here, and we’ll call you up.

[Testimony service followed.]

[Comment made by Elder Frazee during testimony service].

Brother, before you go, just think of a bag here. How much pressure can it stand? It’s a matter of just having enough pressure inside to meet the pressure coming from outside. Isn’t that right? It isn’t the bag; it’s the pressure inside of the Spirit of God. Bless your heart. All right...

“Redeemed! how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His fortunate mercy,
His child and forever I am.

[Refrain]
Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child, and forever, I am.
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #337, first stanza.

Now, is there somebody here tonight that has never yet accepted your election, but tonight you see that Jesus loves you because He's love, and you want to accept His gift and give yourself to Him? If so, will you raise your hand? God bless you both.

Now, is there somebody that once knew the Master, but your hand has somewhere slipped out of His hand, and you've been walking without Him? You want to come back tonight and give yourself to Him. Would you raise your hand?

All of us that would like to continue to walk with Jesus let's raise both hands. What do you say?

Precious Lord, take us, some for the first time, some for the hundredth time. Keep us happy in Thy grace, looking not to ourselves but to your wonderful love, and sharing with others the good news.

Dismiss us with your blessing and give us a wonderful Sabbath for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Good night and God bless you.

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