

TOTAL TRUTH #21
Recovering A Comprehensive Christianity

The Rising of the Remnant”

Part 2

I want to continue our teaching with Part 2 of the message, “The Rising of the Remnant”. I want to present a prophetic picture of how, in the midst of the increasing corruption in our American culture, God will raise up a remnant to respond to it. Remember this...

God always reserves a remnant unto Himself!

Even during the darkest days when God is bringing judgment upon a nation that has turned their backs on Him...like in the days of the prophet Isaiah...

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.

We need to know about the remnant! So tonight, I want to answer...

3 Key Questions

What is the Remnant?

How Do We Recognize The Remnant?

What is the responsibility of the Remnant?

II. The Rising of the Remnant

A. What is the Remnant?

1. In the natural world...

“Remnant”

A small piece or amount of something left from a larger, original piece or amount.

a. In the natural world, a remnant refers to things: food, cloth, carpet; it's what remains after the larger piece is removed. But...

Theme

In the Bible, a 'remnant' refers to a group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority do not.

2. In the natural world, the 'remnant', by definition, is never as big as the original piece; in the Bible, the remnant as a 'people group' are never as many as you think; the remnant is never the 'moral majority'; they are always the 'moral minority'.

3. The Apostle Paul reveals that another word for 'remnant' is 'reserve', when he recalls God's response to the complaint of Elijah, that he was the only one left remaining true to God:

Romans 11:5-6

"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

a. Notice that those God 'reserves' for Himself are the 'remnant' according to the 'election' of grace; they cannot boast; they are who they are by grace! b. In his book "Raise Your Voice", Pastor Myles Rutherford compares God's remnant to America's Army Reserve.

Myles Rutherford, "Raise Your Voice"

In America, we have Army Reserve soldiers. They receive the same training as active duty soldiers but they are civilians. A reservist knows he may be called upon at any time to safeguard the nation. But until that time, he may attend college, pursue a career, or raise a family.

Myles Rutherford

However, reservists know that when danger hits the shores of their country and overwhelms the active army, they are trained and ready to go. They are not just

preachers—they are ordinary people who ready to be actively deployed to defend the cause of God.

4. Review: So the remnant is the group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority do not; they are God's 'Army Reserve'.

a. The Remnant are not often recognized as soldiers because they are 'soldiers in civvies'; so...

B. So How Do We Recognize the Remnant?

1. If you're in the Remnant, you may feel discouraged and very alone.

1 Kings 19:9-10

"I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

a. You may be sitting in church wondering why no one else wonders 'what's wrong here?'

b. You may find yourself separated from friends and family. (This happened to us!)

2. If you're in the remnant, you will be misunderstood; some may accuse you of being crazy!

a. In Acts 26, the Apostle Paul is standing before King Agrippa and Governor Festus...

Acts 26:24 ESV

And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."

b. It may surprise you to know that even Jesus was accused of insanity!

John 10:19-20

And there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?"

c. It may surprise you even more to know that in the beginning of His ministry, Jesus' own family thought He was crazy!

Mark 3:20-21 ESV

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

d. We have experienced this! Perhaps you have as well!

3. You can recognize the Remnant as those who are offended at the things that offend God.

a. Today, the name of God is publicly mocked and the Church is ridiculed.

b. It reminds us of the early days of David, when the Philistine giant publicly profaned God and cursed God's people.

c. This is a perfect prophetic picture of our own day; where the news media and the late-night talk shows think nothing of blaspheming the Lord. And God's people say nothing..

1 Samuel 17:10-11

And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

d. King Saul and all of Israel were silent and fearful; but God has a remnant; one young shepherd boy...

1 Samuel 17:26

Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For

who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

e. You can recognize the remnant as those offended by what offends God!

Myles Rutherford

The remnant are not rebels, renegades or radicals. They are normal people who are offended at what offends God.

f. The Remnant are those who denounce the obscenity of the Grammy Awards, the Super Bowl half-time show and a Beyonce concert no matter how many people praise it.

g. We have Drag Queens shows in our public schools; we have the Gay Pride parades are the modern version of Sodom and Gomorrah; like in the days of the remnant prophet Jeremiah, who asked...

Jeremiah 6:15

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush.

h. America needs to be ashamed; we need to relearn how to blush.

Myles Rutherford

We must become insulted by the things that insult God, even at the cost of church or family discomfort. The remnant of God is not called to comfort people.

4. You can recognize the Remnant as those who cannot be comfortable because they carry a burden for the cause of God and the people of God.

Myles Rutherford

In America, nothing is truly felt until it troubles us immediately and personally. Many people have a cause or concern; but when you are the remnant you have a burden.

a. The remnant are those who cannot be comfortable, even though they are surrounded by comfort.

b. The perfect picture of this principle is Nehemiah, the man God used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

c. Although he is a Jew, Nehemiah has become a high official in the court of the King of Persia; even though he is living in the midst of an alien culture, in a certain sense, he has it made; he is the King's cupbearer!

d. He is quite comfortable until...

Nehemiah 1:1-2

It came to pass...as I was in the citadel, that one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:3

And they said to me, "The survivors (remnant) who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

e. What makes Nehemiah a model of the remnant is how he reacts to this bad news about the condition of God's people...

Nehemiah 1:4

So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days...fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

f. Nehemiah represents the remnant in that *he cannot be comfortable in the midst of his comfort because he carries the burden of the Lord for God's cause and God's people.*

g. It seems that most professing Christians in America seem to be quite comfortable in the midst of our cultural collapse; they are not troubled by the news (many do not even watch the news); not so with Nehemiah.

h. Nehemiah sought to know the news about what was happening in his hometown; and when he heard it was bad, he did something about it.

i. The remnant bear the burden of the Lord for His cause and His people.

5. Finally, you can recognize the remnant as those who will not submit to any civil authority that would compel them to break God's commandments or violate their personal conscience. Here are 3 examples....

a. Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male infants at their birth.

Exodus 1:15-16

Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife...if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

Exodus 1:17

But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

Exodus 1:20

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

b. Daniel, while in captivity in Babylon, heard of the law commanding no one was to pray to any other God but the State.

Daniel 6:10

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on in his knees and prayed to God, just as he had done before.

c. In the Book of Acts, Peter and the Apostles were arrested for preaching the Gospel.

Acts 5:27-28

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine..."

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Review

Before We Close, let's review what we've said so far:

- God always reserves a remnant unto Himself
- The remnant is the group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority do not
- You can recognize the Remnant, as well as if you are a part of it, in 6 ways:

-Like Elijah, you can find yourself feeling discouraged and very alone

-Like the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul, they may call you 'crazy'

-Like David confronted by Goliath, you will be offended by things that offend God's honor and God's church

-Like Nehemiah, even though you may be personally safe and comfortable, you will become uncomfortable with the burden of the Lord over the broken-down condition of God's church

-Like the midwives, and Daniel, and the Apostles, you will refuse to submit to any civil authority that would compel you to break God's commandments or violate your personal conscience

6. This is how you recognize the Remnant; and by now you must know that, by the grace of God, you are part of it!

Myles Rutherford

If you are still here and resolute about the things of God, you remain. You are part of the remnant.

C. So What Is The Responsibility of the Remnant?

1. I would like to close by returning to the metaphor of the Remnant as it compares to the Army Reserve; ready for active duty.

Myles Rutherford

God has a reserve. He has a remnant. They are not just preachers behind a pulpit. They are *ordinary people* ready to be actively deployed in spiritual warfare to protect and defend the Church of God.

2. The Remnant arises, like the Army Reserve, when there is a crisis that requires attention; like Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 4:20

Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.

3. The Remnant hear the 'trumpet' and rally together; the Remnant need one another.

Steven Yates

Let's see to it that the Remnant is ready. This means forgetting about convincing any majority, with intellectual arguments, and instead reaching out to those who are willing and able to build a future based on responsible freedom.

4. This does not mean we leave of reaching out to the lost; but it does means reaching out the rest of the Remnant because they are the ones willing and ablet to build a proper world for tomorrow.

5. A 100 years ago, Christian libertarian Albert Jay Nock wrote this about the Remnant...

Albert Jay Nock, "Free Speech and Plain Language" (1870-1945)

The remnant are obscure, unorganized, inarticulate, each one rubbing along as best he can. They need to be encouraged and braced up because when everything has gone completely to the dogs, they are the ones who will come back and build up a new society.

Albert Jay Nock

And meanwhile, your preaching will reassure them and keep them hanging on.
Your job is to take care of the Remnant, so be off now and set about it.

Albert Jay Nock

You do not know, and will never know, who the Remnant are, nor where they are, nor how many of them there are, nor what they are doing or will do. Two things you know, and no more: first, that they exist; second, that they will find you.

Closing Prayer

Title

Epilogue

(Closing Announcement)

Next Saturday

We will show the documentary film, "Letter to the American Church"

The Church Complicit With Hitler

Adolf Hitler rose to power because the Church remained silent.

We must not let this happen again!

Myles Rutherford

The greatest threat to our society is not bombs, guns or climate change; it's a church that refuses to raise its voice.