

Articles and Sermons :: THE REMNANT CRIES OUT ! by Terry Somerville

THE REMNANT CRIES OUT ! by Terry Somerville - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/5/2 10:55

"Lord they have killed thy prophets, they have demolished thy altars, and I alone am left and they seek my life." But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace." Romans 11:3-5

We live in times quite similar to Elijah's time in many respects. The glory of Christ is seldom seen in the church, but there is much "religious" activity that satisfies the bulk of Christians. In the midst of this there is a remnant crying out to God, desperate to see the Holy Spirit come in power and change his church, and overflow with revival in the land. Are you part of the remnant?

THE REMNANT IS A BROKEN PEOPLE

God is seeing to it that his remnant is a broken people, they always are. Nehemiah was a part of the remnant of his day. When he heard about the condition of God's people he said "When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days..." While most of the Jews in captivity simply adjusted themselves to their surroundings, the remnant cried out for God to restore His work. This brokenness so gripped Nehemiah that it affected everything, it even interfered with his duties to the king. Do you cry out to God for the church today? Do you see the present condition of the church and the lack of concern by its members? The remnant cries out as Daniel did:

"all this calamity has come upon us , yet we have not entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities and giving heed to the truth Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity and brought it upon us." Daniel 9:13,14

THE REMNANT REPENT

The remnant will repent on their own behalf and on behalf of the rest of God's people. Both Nehemiah and Daniel confessed their corporate sins and declared God's justice in sending them into captivity. God had kept His word. Today the remnant knows the social pressure on Christians is the hand of God calling us to repentance. In fact God has sent a baptism of fire into many Christians to deepen the examination of themselves. They feel the "deep calling unto deep" in their hearts and begin to cry for the whole people. We are indeed in captivity in the church and don't even know it.

THE REMNANT PAY A GREAT PRICE

The remnant of God will be misunderstood and persecuted by the rest of God's people. This is because the remnant yearn for God's greatness while the rest love the religious status quo which looks so good. God send's trials and finally captivity to make his people turn to Him with all their heart. The prophets call for repentance, but only a remnant will respond. The majority never see there is something wrong and are threatened by the call to repentance. In Elijah's day God's people killed the prophets. In Luther's day Christians killed the reformers. But unless the rest of the church responds the majority will despise the remnant. Never the less, the remnant is called to be humble and lay down their life if necessary.

THE REMNANT SEEK HOLINESS AND OBEDIENCE

The remnant yearns for holiness in order to be a vessel God can use. This is not legalism but a deep examination of the heart and a desire to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit implicitly.

"In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and earthenware, and some for noble use, and some for ignoble. If anyone purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful to the master of the house, ready for any good work."
2 Timothy 2:20,21

GOD ACTS FOR THE REMNANT

Throughout scripture God promises to restore and revive His work. When a remnant repents and obeys and takes hold of these promises God will bring restoration. This is the astounding part, God will act for the sake of the remnant. He does not require all the people. Nehemiah prayed according to God's promise:

Remember the word which thou didst command thy servant Moses, saying, "If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them ...I will gather them thence..." Nehemiah 1:8,9

Daniel received the same sort of answer to prayer. In Daniel chapter nine he repents for all the Jews including himself and calls for deliverance according to God's own word;

"O my God incline thy ear and hear, and open thy eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name; for we do not present our supplications before thee on the grounds of our righteousness, but on the ground of thy great mercy."
Daniel 9:18

God prepares for Himself a remnant so they can seek Him so that he can act. This is a wonderful thing about God's grace. It is His work from start to finish.

TODAY'S REMNANT

Do you identify with the remnant in our day? Is your heart broken over the condition of the church? Do you find yourself weeping and crying to God for revival in the land? Do you yearn to walk in holiness and power and are discontent even in places where great things are happening? Are you looked at as peculiar by Christians without such feelings?

Then take courage, you are part of the remnant God is raising up. God is not slow concerning his promises as some count slowness! Take your place with us. Let the refining fire do its work to make you a pure vessel. Take hold of God's promises and cry out to Him for the land.

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