"Even at this present time also there is a remnant". Epistle to the Romans 11:5

"A SAVING REMNANT"

Word "remnant" has a particular and biblical background and content. Running through Bible is a doctrine - Doctrine of the Remnant. And not a doctrine only; also an interpretation of history.

The doctrine born out of suffering and tragedy. Not arrived at through theory but through travail. In the day of darkness, in day of national calamity, in day when God seemed defeated - the doctrine stated that God was still alive and working - though the multitude had deserted His ways, yet He was working through the few.

Therefore, hope for the world was in this few; this remnant. There is the doctrine. Let us turn to Hebrew history and see illustrations.

Remnant in Hebrew History

There is story of destruction of wicked city of Sodom. Read it this afternoon - Genesis 18 and 19. Notoriously wicked and God determines to destroy it. Abraham pleads - "Wilt thou destroy righteous with wicked?" "Perhaps there are 50 righteous within city". "If I find fifty I will spare it for their sakes". Pleading goes on - 45; 40; 30; 20; 10. Hope in remnant.

Elijah on Horeb. "I even I only am left". Feels cause utterly lost. The end of everything. He is told of the 7000 who had not bowed knees to Baal. Keeping the faith alive; keeping light of truth burning brightly. The remnant.

Later the nation carried off into exile and future looks dark. While majority follow path of least resistance, a handful continue to worship Jehovah. A remnant continues to sing Songs of Zion and to pass on to children priceless heritage of Hebrew tradition and history. After 70 years it is the remnant which returns to ruined Jerusalem and restores temple and its worship.

Paul, looking out upon pagan world and society, when all looks dark and hopeless can say, "Even at this present time there is a remnant".
a greater zeal for God and all things of the
spirit. Forgive the play on words.

But I am concerned. I covet for this
church that the churchmanship of all her members
shall be a rich and vital thing. I plead for a
closer identification with the church in her
ministry of the remnant. I pray that people in
this church shall catch the vision of a conse-
crated service in this community. I want my
people to be spiritually mature and identified
with all good things in this community.

I want my people to be as salt - a preserv-
ing power in the community. I want my people
to give zest and tang to community life. I want
my people to be a moral antiseptic in this town.
I want my people to be a saving remnant in this
community. I want it to be said that this Fre-
mont Street Church can be counted upon in all
ventures of faith, in all good works.

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
Real service is what I desire.
I'll sing thy praise anytime, dear Lord,
But don't ask me to sing in the choir.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I'd like to see things come to pass;
But please don't ask me to teach, dear Lord,
I'd just rather stay in my class.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I yearn for the Kingdom to thrive.
I'll give you my nickles and dimes, dear Lord,
But please don't ask me to tithe.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord.
I'll say what you want me to say.
But I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord.
I'll help you some other day.
devout souls in a church can deepen spiritual life of whole church. A few godly and creative families in a community can keep it clean and sweet. That's how remnant works.

**Function of Church**  
Doctrine related to church today. There is divine purpose and function of the church - to be a saving and creative remnant.  

**New Testament** declares the church is and always should be, arrayed over against what we term the "world". Church stands in judgement against world. In the world but not of world. As salt. As leaven. As seed. A creative and saving minority. A strategic minority. To be a remnant.

If the church is not the salt of society, if the church is not the leaven of community, if the church is not the conscience of society - it has failed. If the church is not different to rest of society, if the church is not salt or leaven, then the church is doomed. Then the church is not the church of Christ. Then it deserves to perish. It will perish.

And when the church identifies itself with any particular strat of society or any particular political party, it is failing. The church is to serve and to minister to all parties and all people. It stands in judgement upon all. The church speaks in the name of her Lord and master, Jesus Christ.

**We Are the Church**  
If the church is to fulfil her mission, if she is to march like an army with banners, there will have to be greater devotion on our part - greater consecration and seriousness.

Really, how serious is our churchmanship? More people in movies than in church. Something wrong when more people go to see trained seal than to worship in God's House. Perhaps we need to get a seal. Perform a few tricks. Perhaps
Power of Godly Minority. An interpretation of history here. Arnold Toynbee, "Civilization continues to grow as long as there is a creative minority". Great and significant statement.

In so-called Dark Ages, when all values of civilization appeared to be lost; it was a godly and creative minority, a remnant, in monasteries who kept the light of truth and art and devotion burning brightly. They saved civilization.

In our own national history we see same principle at work. Our democratic form of government with its emphasis upon "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness", came to birth in a land whose soil had been cultivated by Puritans in New England, Quakers in Pennsylvania, Huguenots in Carolinas, Catholics in Maryland. The power of a creative and godly minority had been at work - remnant.

Have seen principle at work in community life. I left home at 16 to earn own living. Not ashamed of it. Uncle's advice. "You'll find two groups in that village. One will hang around the public house. Other will gravitate toward church and chapel. You'll go with one or the other". In providence of God I was led towards Wesleyan Chapel. There I decided to become preacher. There I found my life-partner. There was a remnant there - a creative and godly minority interested in eager young lads who might become teachers and preachers.

Have seen it in other communities. Seen community life lifted to higher levels because of this remnant - this godly minority. But let Dr. Sockman speak of this remnant. Salt of the earth.

What an influence a few people can have. Wesley was leader of a few godly students at Oxford. Known as "Holy Club" and "Methodists". Met for prayer each day. Observed communion. Engaged in acts of service and mercy. SNEE, BUT John Wesley founded a church of almost 9,000,000 members in this country alone. Only a handful of men began the Reformation movement. Jesus had but twelve disciples.

A Mr. Chips can lift the tone of a school. A Christian business man can create an atmosphere of Christian corporate action. A small group of
In my youth I had occasion to observe two rural communities, in one of which there was a church, in the other of which there was none. In the former, the church was the center of social and recreational life, and there the neighbors met on the level of their higher interests. In the latter community, where there was no church, the people sought other social centers where they met on the level of their lower tastes. In the former the church observance of Christmas, Easter, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving gave tone and refinement to the community. In the latter, life tended more to drabness and vulgarity. In the former, the church invested individual life with dignity and the neighborhood with a community spirit; in the latter there was lax morality. Out of that little church came lads fired with ambition for higher education, illumined by ideals and consecrated to the spirit of service. Standing here amid the skyscrapers of New York city, I look back to that little white church in Green Valley, Ohio, as symbolizing the thousands of similar structures which dot the landscape of our land. Only the all-knowing God can measure their influence, for they are the salt of the earth.
I F THE Gallup Poll were to check the answers to requests for assistance in the work of the church and in various benevolent organizations, it would probably come up with the stock answer, "I am sorry, but really I do not have the time."

According to practices governing the distribution of other commodities, time ought to be rationed. But why should there be a shortage of time? Modern modes of transportation, labor-saving devices, mass production, and time-saving gadgets, should leave every one with time on his hands. Flying from coast to coast gives a man sixty-one hours surplus time. The streamliner, the high-powered car, the tractor with its multiple uses, the telephone, the radio, the digest of this and that, and many other inventions are all saving us much time. We might expect people to be looking for something to do, something to "pass the time." Nevertheless, the shortage of which most people complain is unquestionably time.

The serious aspect of this is the fact that man fails to budget the time he does have in a wise and profitable manner. He uses too much of it for that which is of little or no value. Consequently, he is short of time for those things which are of paramount importance. Appallingly many spend all or nearly all of their time on matters pertaining to this life, to body and mind. No time is set aside for consideration of the soul and things spiritual.

Now, during the winter months, is a good opportunity to reorganize our use of time. Well might it be done on the background of the old gospel hymn, "Take time to be holy," remembering the admonitions, "Be still and know that I am God," and "The time is short. The Lord is at hand."
Gloversville, New York
January 30, 1949

ORGAN - Solemn Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP - By the minister

HYMN 1 - "Holy, holy, holy!"

Minister: The Lord be with you,

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

DOXOLOGY - To be sung by all

CALL TO PRAYER - By the minister

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - To be said by all

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR PARDON - By the minister

AMEN

RESPONSIVE READING - 5th Sunday - 2nd Reading

GLORIA PATRI :: APOSTLES' CREED

SCRIPTURE LESSON - Matthew 5:1-16

ANTHEM - "Teach Me, O Lord" Attwood

PASTORAL PRAYER :: LORD'S PRAYER el

ORGAN OFFERTORY :: "Consider the Name of the Lord" Kreck

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN 251 - "Take time to be holy" Holiness

SERMON - "A SAVING REMNANT"

HYMN 268 - "Are ye able?" Beacon Hill

BENEDICTION :: CHORAL AMEN Danish

ORGAN - "Postlude in F" Sachs

Rev. Fred Clarke, Minister
Miss Gloria Iacono, Minister of Music
Mrs. Harvey Connor, Minister's Assistant
Mrs. Keith Gifford, Church Secretary
Mr. Lewis Cumming, Sexton

CALENDAR FOR TODAY

10:30 Morning Worship. Visitors welcomed.
10:30 Children's Division of the Church School.
11:45 Youth and Adult Divisions of the Church School.
6:00 M. Y. F. with Betty Ardizzone leading. Topic, "Unto the Least of These". Movies - "Families First". All youth cordially invited.
7:30 Union Evening Service at Emmanuel Baptist Church with the Rev. Willis C. Laskey preaching.

Altar flowers are given in memory of Charles Nichols by the family.

THROUGH THE WEEK AT FREMONT

MON. 11:00 Weekday Class in religion.
11:00 Boy Scouts. Charter Night.
10:30 February meeting of the W. S. C. S.. Two special films will be shown dealing with home problems. Refreshments.
6:30 FAMILY NIGHT covered dish supper to be served by the Muddle Class. All invited.
7:30 Annual Meeting of Church School. Reports by the organized classes and departments. Presentation of first in a series of films on "The Life of the Apostle Paul".
4:00 Minister's membership class.
7:30 Winning Six Class meets at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Kennedy, 5 Saratoga Blvd.
3:00 Harmony Class covered dish supper at church.
3:45 Youth Choir rehearsal.
6:30 Children's Choir rehearsal.
9:15

ADULTS AND YOUNG ADULTS are extended a cordial invitation to attend a Church School class. Our teachers are well-qualified; the fellowship is enjoyable; the mental stimulation is valuable. Join us this morning.