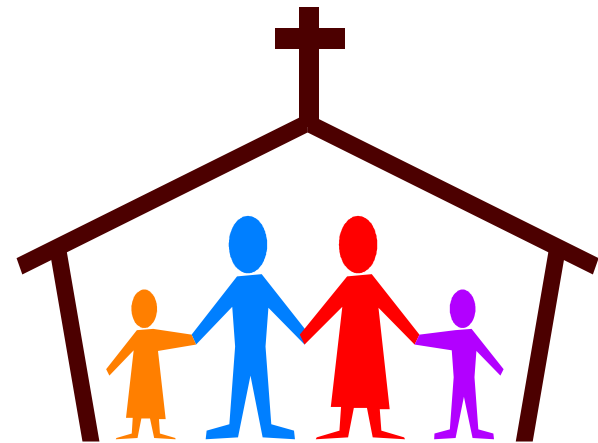


**SERMON NOTES SERIES**

**PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

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# **THE REMNANT CHURCH**



**DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.  
SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).*** I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,  
Pastor John

## RESOURCES USED

- \* The Companion Bible
- \* Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- \* Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- \* A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- \* Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- \* The American College Dictionary
- \* World's Bible Handbook
- \* The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- \* Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- \* The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- \* God's Plan For Man
- \* Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- \* Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- \* Manners And Customs From the Bible
- \* What The Bible Is All About
- \* Halley's Bible Handbook

*These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!*

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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## OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

*Hosea 4:6*

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

*Proverbs 23:7*

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

*Colossians 1:9*

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

*Proverbs 24:3-5*

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

*Mark 13:10*

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,  
*John and Karen Pelizzari*

## THE REMNANT CHURCH

This was birthed from some personal studies that I was doing that the Lord decided to turn into an early morning staff meeting with me. So while I was trying to prepare a message, which I reminded Him that we were having church in a couple of hours and that a message would be appreciated to feed His people, He decided on a staff meeting instead. He's the Boss so who can argue. He was explaining church dynamics concerning the days before His return that I had not seen before. So I am going to share the notes from that staff meeting with you.

1. When we say remnant church, what is it that we are talking / thinking about?
  - a. What is a remnant?
2. Who belongs to the remnant church and who doesn't?
3. And, what's so important about it?

**Remnant** - a small remaining quantity.

4. As we study this, it will explain why evening services have a lesser crowd and why intercessory prayer only ranges a very few in number.

**Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which**

are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

5. I want you to notice that the Apostle Paul is writing to the church at Ephesus.
6. In this letter, he addresses two distinct types of people who belong to this church.
  - a. The saints.
  - b. And...the faithful.
7. So out of any church congregation of the saints, there is a smaller group called the “faithful.”

**Deuteronomy 19:15**     **One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.**

8. Before this can become a doctrinal truth, a minimum of two scriptures are needed to validate it.

**Deuteronomy 19:15 (NLT)**     **...The facts of the case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

**Colossians 1:1-2** [1] Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, [2] To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. Here the Apostle Paul is writing a letter to the church at Colosse. He makes the same distinction.
  - a. To the saints.
  - b. And...the faithful.
10. The books of both Ephesians and Colossians begin with this phrase.
  - a. What’s the difference?

**Saints** - Gk - *hagios* - physically pure, means you try to live what most would consider a clean life.

- a. Morally blameless, meaning you try to be good person, kind to others.
- b. Religious, showing that you have a sense of obligation towards God.
- c. Ceremonially sacred, shows that you will go through the motions to show others how good and clean of a person you are because of your obligation to God.

- d. Holy, meaning you endeavor to live a separated lifestyle; you try not to act like the world.

**Faithful** - Gk - *pistos* - trustworthy, one that you can rely / depend on.

- a. Loyal, one who shows firm and constant support.
  - b. One who shows an allegiance to a person or institute.
  - c. Believing, one who doesn't question, criticize or is skeptical.
  - d. Sure, completely reliable.
  - e. True, real.
11. So we see that there is a distinct difference between the saints and the faithful church folks that Paul is talking about.
12. A church can be full of saints in love with Jesus, but it is the faithful who put action to their faith by doing more than just showing up.

**John 14:15**      **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

**John 14:15 (NLT)**      **"If you love me, obey my commandments.**

**John 14:15 (MSG)**      **"If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.**

13. God is looking for those committed to Him for the duration, not for just the moment.
14. What this verse also tells us is the strategy of God in these last days.
- a. God does not look for many, He's looking for the few.
  - b. He is looking for quality, not quantity.
  - c. Just like the Marines, God is looking for a few good men.
15. In the Old Testament, God called the faithful few "the remnant."
- a. This was a group within the nation.
16. What was the difference?
17. They loved the Lord above others in the nation and had hearts to serve the Lord no matter what the cost.

**2 Chronicles 16:9**      **For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly:**

**therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.**

**2 Chronicles 16:9 (MSG) God is always on the alert, constantly on the lookout for people who are totally committed to him. You were foolish to go for human help when you could have had God's help. Now you're in trouble—one round of war after another."**

18. God is always looking for a few who would follow Him no matter what.

19. Even Jesus had a remnant within His disciples.

**Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.**

20. Out of the seventy, Jesus chose twelve.

**Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;**

21. He chose twelve disciples out of the seventy who followed Him.

22. Out of the twelve, Jesus had the three who were closest to Him: Peter, James, and John.

**Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,**

23. Out of the three, only one (John) stood with Him at the crucifixion.

**John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!**

24. Many times we look for great numbers in whatever church functions we may have because our emotions are moved and we “feel a greater anointing” with a bigger crowd.

25. God is still more impressed with a few in faith than a multitude in unbelief.

**Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

26. It just takes two to have intercessory prayer.

**Matthew 18:19 (NLT)** "I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.

27. A saint believes that we should pray, the faithful show up to do it.

**Matthew 18:19 (MSG)** When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action.

28. He will answer prayer if only two will agree by faith in prayer.

a. Even then, God will answer prayer if only one will believe His Word.

**Ezekiel 22:30** And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

**Ezekiel 22:30 (NLT)** "I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't

have to destroy the land, but I found no one.

**Ezekiel 22:30 (MSG)** "I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one.

29. He is still looking for "a man among them" who will "stand in the gap and make up the hedge" and pray for the nation.

30. As it was when the Apostle Paul wrote these churches in New Testament days, churches are filled with saints, but only a few are faithful brethren.

31. Even pastors are to blame because they are too busy making converts instead disciples.

a. Converts are many, disciples are few.

b. A disciple is one who continues to follow the Lord despite the circumstances.

c. A disciple is faithful no matter who else follows the Lord.

**John 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32. The faithful will continue on. An easy example is:
- a. A saint will show up for fellowship where there is food and drink.
  - b. The faithful help clean up everybody's mess after everyone has eaten.
33. Continuing in God's Word sets you apart from the multitude of converts.
- a. It makes you more than a saint, it makes you a faithful brother in Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

34. Several things to notice in this scripture.
- a. Saints who are spiritual teenagers still have difficulties with lust.
  - b. There is a "them" who call upon the name of the Lord with a pure heart.
  - c. Meaning there are "those" who call upon the name of the Lord with ulterior motives.

d. In any church, there are two types of believers in attendance.

1. Those who struggle with lust.
2. Those who want more of Jesus out of a pure heart.

35. Notice what else Paul is saying...he is telling Pastor Timothy "Don't get distracted by the entire congregation. Keep your eyes on a small group (the remnant) within the congregation that wants to follow after the Lord with a pure heart."
36. Within the body of Christ, in any given church there is a group called converts, but there is an even smaller group called disciples.
37. Paul is teaching Pastor Timothy, "Get your eyes off the saints alone and focus your eyes on the faithful who are pursuing discipleship."
38. Why do some of the faithful slip back into being content with just being a saint?
39. The answer is revealed when God was leading the children of Israel through the wilderness. An eleven day journey turned into a forty year odyssey. Why?

**Deuteronomy 8:2** And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know

**what was in thine heart,  
whether thou wouldst keep his  
commandments, or no.**

40. They were being tested to qualify for the promotion of abundance once they entered into the promised land. Let's break it down:

- a. **Which the Lord thy God led thee** - they were being tested on whether they could be led or not or take matters into their own hands.
- b. **These forty years** - they were being tested on whether time would be an issue that would discourage them or cause them to murmur or compare to others.
- c. **In the wilderness** - they were being tested on being content no matter at what stage of the journey to their promise that they were at and whether they saw anything improvements or not.
- d. **To humble thee** - to remove any sense of pride.
  - 1. This would mean your concerns on what people think or say about you.
  - 2. Whether people are treating you good or bad, loving you or leaving you.
- e. **And to prove thee** - meaning He was testing you for promotion or promotion denied.

f. **To know what was in thine heart** - the character test, what is the character test...

g. **Whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no** - if you will obey despite the circumstances

- 41. See, many people who were once strong in the church, serving in the ministry no longer do so. They stopped being the faithful brothers to Jesus and settled for being a saint, who is known all around for being a generally good person, doing good things from time to time.
- 42. Something else has crept in and replaced their time with God in His house.
  - a. I told the Lord that I heard that some folks in our church used to be rock solid in their old church...but they don't look rock solid to me.
  - b. He said they are not rock solid to Him anymore either because they are no longer on solid rock.
- 43. God is looking for people who will pursue Him and not just follow Him.

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

44. Even right now, within any given church, there is a remnant church, a small group within a group who desire to go deeper, farther, higher than the rest.

45. But Pastor John, are we not supposed to be followers of Jesus?

- a. Yes...those who get blessed are those who not only follow Him, but step out and pursue Him and come to Him.

46. Here's a promise for the remnant that saints won't get.

**Jeremiah 23:3** And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

47. Fold would represent the church. But there is a remnant within the church that will experience increase beyond what the saints will experience.

**Mark 10:29-31** [29] And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, [30] But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. [31] But

**many that are first shall be last; and the last first.**

**Mark 10:29-31 (NLT)** [29] And Jesus replied, "I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, [30] will receive now in return, a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—with persecutions. And in the world to come they will have eternal life. [31] But many who seem to be important now will be the least important then, and those who are considered least here will be the greatest then."

48. See, the difference is that a saint will pursue after things because of the promises of God.

49. A faithful one will give up the things God promised for more of God.

**Micah 7:18** Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of

his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

50. **Passeth by** means God is going to give you some slack. Who is it focused on? The remnant.

**Zephaniah 3:13**      **The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.**

51. Remnant believers who refuse to live a tainted lifestyle will have peace and live free from fear.

**Haggai 1:12**      **Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord.**

52. Remnant believers come to hear the word preached and to worship.

a. **And the people did fear before the Lord** - is translated that they worshiped God.

b. **Haggai 1:12 (NLT)**      **...and the people worshiped the Lord in earnest.**

**Haggai 1:12 (MSG)**      **Then the governor, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak, and all the people with them listened, really listened, to the voice of their God. When God sent the prophet Haggai to them, they paid attention to him. In listening to Haggai, they honored God.**

53. We honor God by listening to the pastor (high priest) assigned to watch over your soul.

a. Saints listen, faithful ones pay attention and obey God's Word.

54. Now comes a really good reason to be a faithful one of the remnant church.

**Zechariah 8:12**      **For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.**

55. First let's point out that God is talking to the remnant, not the majority. The faithful ones amongst the saints. Let's break it down:

a. **For the seed shall be prosperous** - today seeds represent the money that you sow.

1. It says that the seed itself shall be prosperous
2. A lemon seed produces lemons, an apple seed produces apples, so a prosperous seed produces more prosperity.

b. **The vine shall give her fruit** - vine is symbolic of Jesus.

1. **John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

2. For the vine to give of her fruit means that you will experience results of God's Word and your prayers.

c. **And the ground shall give her increase** - ground is symbolic of your heart where the Word is planted.

1. This means that you will see / receive and experience a fulfillment of the things you pray for and desire to have in your heart.

2. Simply put, you'll receive your heart's desire.

d. **And the heavens shall give their dew** - symbolic of the power of the resurrection.

1. **Isaiah 26:19 Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.**

2. This symbolizes that you will be more fired up for God than the average saint and that you will experience even more signs, wonders and miracles.

e. **And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things** - meaning God will make it happen and that there is no man or devil that can stop it.

56. But he is only promising this to the remnant church, that small group within the group that is more

radical, more committed, more sold out than the average saint.

- 57. Whatever you put value to is what you will make time for.
- 58. The value that you put on the Word determines the level of blessing and prosperity that you will live in.

**Matthew 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**

- 59. This is a reference to an ancient custom where a person could be forced into service by helping carry out the orders of a king's representative.
  - a. To refuse was an unpardonable offense to the king.
- 60. Saints will go a mile but only because it is required of them.
  - a. A faithful one will go two or more.

**Colossians 1:1-2 [1] Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, [2] To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- 61. One more thing, notice and faithful brethren in Christ.

- a. Means a brother to Jesus, not just by blood ties but by experiences together.
- b. To be brothers in arms who are proud to have served together.
- c. Are there any saints ready to go higher, deeper?