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THE SPIRIT OF A REMNANT

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Malachi 3:13-15 (ESV) - For context

13 "Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' 14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"



Malachi 3:16-18 (ESV) - Humility in a Remnant

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. 17 "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.



Malachi 3:16a (ESV)

16a Then those who feared the LORD...

Who are "those" who feared the Lord"?





Biblically...What is a "Remnant"?

They were usually a few out of a people that chose to remain true to God and the things that were most important to Him, and many times it was in opposition to the culture around them, even in the church.





What does a "Remnant" Church and/or People look like?

- 1. They will become more entrenched in the Word as the world opposes it.
- 2. The Church and its People will become maligned and a target of society.
- 3. It will prioritize preaching biblical truth that will challenge the culture.
- 4. It will produce the most committed Christians while making disciples.
- 5. It will experience a greater presence and power of God through the Holy Spirit.



What does a "Remnant" Church and/or People look like?

- 6. It will become more visible and distinct as the culture becomes more decadent.
- 7. It will be more excluded and separated from mainstream secular evangelical churches and denominations.
- 8. It will endure while the compromising church will fade away.
- 9. The remnant church will encourage each other to look forward to Christ's return for the "Church".



Malachi 3:16 a & b (ESV)

16 Then those who feared the LORD...spoke with one another.

You were never meant to go it alone...



God's design was always that we would live and operate in community with each other.

That we would find encouragement from others in our community



Jude (ESV)

17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." 19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.



Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

It really matters to our "Remnant Community" that we keep each other stirred up to love and good works



We need to make sure our own relationship with God is right and then work to be an encourager to each other... not a discourager



Malachi 3:16 (ESV)

16 Then those who feared the LORD... spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

Don't miss that God is moved by the expression of our faith in unity within our community



Mark 2:2-5 (ESV)

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."



We need to be the type of community that will tear the roof off for each other.

But the take-away for today is that God took note and was pleased when he saw the corporate faith of the "Remnant People"



Malachi 3:17a (ESV)

17 "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession,

A "Remnant People" is faithful to God, even when everyone around them is not...and that is what makes us pretty special to Him.





Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Don't equate being a "special jewel" to God with comfort, ease, and no problems. In the truest sense of being part of a "remnant people" you are God's special treasure because of your faithfulness even in times of difficulty and great pressure.





Malachi 3:17b and 18 (ESV)

17b ...and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

A "Remnant People" looks forward to the "day of the Lord" and helps others keep long-term Kingdom perspectives



1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 The Day of the Lord

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.



God says the faithful remnant will be spared from eternal judgement as if a son. Live each day as if the Lord could snatch the "Church" out of this world at any time.



