

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

A REMNANT

Romans 11:2,5-6 “God did not reject His people, whom He foreknew. . . at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.”

A person who sews must go to a specialty store that sells bolts of cloth. The pattern they purchase for the article of clothing they plan to sew tells them how many yards of cloth they will need to purchase. Sometimes the sewer is fortunate to find at the store a remnant. A remnant is the cloth that is left at the end of a bolt. The store often discounts the price of the remnant simply to create space for a new, full bolt.

The dictionary defines the word remnant as “a small remaining quantity of something.” St. Paul refers to “a remnant” in Romans 11. He is referring to a small group of Jews who had remained faithful to Yahweh. Elijah had complained to God, says St. Paul, that there were no faithful followers of Yahweh left. God told Isaiah he was wrong. He said to his Prophet, “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” (Romans 11:4)

Annual polling tells us there are fewer and fewer people who believe in the Triune God. Fewer people believe in Jesus for their salvation. True, there are still millions of individuals who profess to be believers, but compared to the world's population the number of believers makes up a minority of people living on this earth.

Paul's point in today's devotional verses is that a remnant of believers remains. God does not abandon true believers. The Large Catechism says, “. . . He will not cast us away from Himself or chase us away. This is true even though we are sinners. Instead, He draws us to Himself, so that we might humble ourselves before Him.” (Page 469)

Your relationship with God is because of His grace. He loves you! Though undeserved, He desires you to be His daughter, His son, a member of His family. He sent His Son Jesus to sacrifice Himself in your behalf so that you would be a member of the remnant. . . those who remain faithful in heart, soul, mind, and spirit.

Prayer: By Your grace, heavenly Father, I remain Your dear child in and through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit; Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels, Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations; Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory To the King of glory sing!

Glory blessing, praise eternal! Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of Kings!
(LSB 506)