

## The Remnant

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

The story of Elijah would make a great movie, but DeMille is long gone and so is Charlton Heston for the title role. Maybe George C. Scott would be a better Elijah figure than Heston anyway. The drama of the story lies in how Elijah had the Big Win at Mt. Carmel, and days later was fleeing for his life from a woman.

After three and a half years of drought, strictly according to Elijah's word, he returned from exile, called down fire from heaven, gave the people rain, and slaughtered the prophets of Baal. It was this last that infuriated Jezebel, who shortly had her minions out looking for Elijah with instructions to take off his head. He ended up, thoroughly discouraged, in a cave on Mt. Horeb. The Word of the Lord came to him and asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

By this time the great prophet was feeling sorry for himself, and he replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too" (1 Kings 19:10, NIV).

The reply to Elijah's complaint was a blunt "Get back to work." God even told him to appoint a successor; a unique idea, for the work of a prophet was usually temporal, and when it was done, it was done. In this case the work had to go further than one man's life.

But the most interesting thing comes almost as a "by the way." Elijah was not the last faithful man. "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel," said the Lord, "all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath

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not kissed him." Elijah did not know, and never would, who most of these were.

If the population of Israel ran to one million folks at this time, God is talking about seven tenths of one

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## Help CEM to Step into 2013 Financially Healthy. . .

Look ahead and take a glance back. How long have you been listening to the *Born to Win* broadcast? How much has it helped you and your family? Do you receive the *Living to Win* newsletter *FREE* each month? What about your kids? How many of the YEA books have they gone through? How many of Ron Dart's books have you read? You've had all of these things because someone cared enough to send in their tithes and offerings to CEM. They thought beyond themselves. They realized there is a greater purpose in life than just taking care of ourselves. The Bible says "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Do you believe the Bible? Do you want God's blessing in 2013? If CEM is to step into 2013 financially healthy, we need for everyone to do their part. Are you ready? If everyone who reads this will do their part, CEM can step into 2013 financially healthy. Pray for God's guidance and do God's will. May God open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing you cannot receive is our prayer for those who do.

# When Truth Clashes with Tradition

By Richard Glasgow

What happens when an immovable object clashes with an unstoppable force? One might imagine a speeding, out of control train coming into a station with no hope of stopping. Or imagine an immense asteroid hurtling toward earth and all efforts to change its course or destroy it have been unsuccessful. You know a calamity is going to occur and mass destruction is going to result.

There's an analogy in there somewhere when it comes to truth vs. tradition. This isn't to suggest all traditions collide with truth. Traditions, when they align with truth, are a beautiful thing. But traditions become problematic when they *clash* with the truth.

To some, the truth is relative; a subjective thing determined by the individual or state. To others, truth is set in stone and authored by God, himself, and those who believe that would most likely refer to the fourth Gospel, John 17:17, which says, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." For most believers, this is the final word when it comes to determining what, in fact, is the truth.

For the believer, the Word of God, the Bible, is the gold standard for truth. It's not a "living document." The Bible isn't malleable to suit peoples' desires. It's immutable. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever, as it says in Hebrews 13:8.

Tradition might be likened to an immovable object and the truth could be likened to the proverbial

unstoppable force. You can't stop the truth. You can ignore it for awhile, but you can never stop it or prevent it from being true.

Tradition? Well, traditions are the things of which entire ideologies, philosophies, religions and even civilizations are made. You think they're not immovable objects? Think again. So what happens when those well established traditions are challenged by the truth?

When traditions are not rooted in truth and the truth somehow presents itself to one who embraces those traditions, there's going to be a clash; and often it's a startling and uncomfortable clash. A clash between the truth and traditions not founded in truth can seem to be catastrophic at first because of the potential upheaval it can cause in the way one lives his life from that point on.

If that person is a truth seeker and desires to do the right thing, he has to decide what he's going to do regarding the tradition. Does he continue keeping that tradition, which may seem wonderful in every way, or does he do the right thing based upon eternal truth?

One very important thing to keep in mind is the possibility that if the truth is revealed to you and you choose to disregard that truth, God may decide to withhold further truth from you in the future. That might be tantamount to closing a door on God. It's something to consider.

The concept of truth clashing with tradition is timely because this time of

year is steeped in traditional celebrations. But are they all based on truth? The person who cares about the truth and desires to do right in the eyes of God will want to ask himself if these traditions are of God or of some other origin which may not have God's stamp of approval.

It's that time of year; what do Christmas and all the trimmings really have to do with the birth of Jesus? It's a question every Christian needs to ask. Is Christmas authorized by the Word of God or is it a celebration of dubious origins?

Here are a few Bible verses that you might want to consider: Deuteronomy 4:2; Matthew 15:8-9; and Mark 7:8.

The truth is out there and readily available. Just Google the "origins of Christmas." If you've never done that, you might be surprised at what you find. Will it matter to you what you find out about Christmas or is the truth unimportant to you? How you answer that question will have consequences either way.

The truth can be difficult. Doing the right thing can be difficult. Still, difficulty shouldn't be the determining factor whether or not we come down on the side of truth. If you're uncomfortably caught between the truth—doing what's right—and a tradition that doesn't meet God's approval, ask God for help. He knows what you might be going through and he'll help you do the right thing.

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percent of the population. If a similar proportion is out there today, that would run to about 1.4 million souls in the United States. That sounds like a lot, but in a town of 100,000, that might only mean 700 disconnected people. That said, the number is probably not absolute. Like the 144,000 in Revelation, the number is probably symbolic, and may not be literal.

Much later, at the fall of Jerusalem, there was a remnant who were left behind in the land. They were said to be the poor of the land, left behind as vine dressers and farmers in what was to become the Babylonian province called Judah. One of their own, a man named Gedaliah, was appointed governor of the land, and there existed a structured civil life. Surprisingly, a number of captains in the Jewish army were left as well. One of them—a man named Ishmael of all things—assassinated Gedaliah and fled across Jordan.

Johanah, another of the officers, led a deputation to Jeremiah to ask for prayer: “Please hear our petition and pray to the LORD your God for this entire remnant. For as you now see, though we were once many, now only a few are left. Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do” (Jeremiah 42:2-3, NIV).

Jeremiah did what they asked, got an answer from God, but they refused to follow instructions. They gathered up the king’s daughters and decamped to Egypt, dragging an unwilling Jeremiah along with them.

This idea of a remnant is remarkably persistent in the Bible. When the Assyrians invaded

the land and carried off the house of Israel, they invaded Judah all the way to Jerusalem. Isaiah, speaking on behalf of Israel at the time, lamented, “Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isaiah 1:9). Isaiah repeatedly spoke of an escaping remnant, preserved by God through every calamity. The NIV calls them “the Survivors.”

In a speech by Alfred Nock titled, *Isaiah’s Job*, he paraphrased it effectively: “In the year of Uzziah’s death, the Lord commissioned the prophet to go out and warn the people of the wrath to come. ‘Tell them what a worthless lot they are,’ he said. ‘Tell them what is wrong, and why, and what is going to happen unless they have a change of heart and straighten up. Don’t mince matters. Make it clear that they are positively down to their last chance. Give it to them good and strong and keep on giving it to them.

“I suppose perhaps I ought to tell you,’ he added, ‘that it won’t do any good. The official class and their intelligentsia will turn up their noses at you, and the masses will not even listen. They will all keep on in their own ways until they carry everything down to destruction, and you will probably be lucky if you get out with your life.’

“Isaiah had been very willing to take on the job, in fact, he had asked for it, but the prospect put a new face on the situation. It raised the obvious question: Why, if all that were so; if the enterprise was to be a failure from the start, was there any sense in starting it?

“‘Ah,’ the Lord said, ‘you do not get the point. There is a remnant

there that you know nothing about. They are obscure, unorganized, inarticulate, each one rubbing along as best he can. They need to be encouraged and braced up because when everything has gone completely to the dogs, they are the ones who will come back and build up a new society; and meanwhile, your preaching will reassure them and keep them hanging on.

“Your job is to take care of the remnant, so be off now and set about it. . .”

It is a rather free paraphrase, but it tends to resonate. “Your job is to take care of the remnant.” Did you ever think of the role of a prophet in those terms? It is odd, in a way, but that resonates with where we find ourselves today, and in more ways than you might have thought. It is true nationally. There are more people than we know out there, trying their best to be faithful to God as far as their headlights penetrate into the gathering darkness. It is also true of the saints, of the church.

All this reminds of an old idea—the old doctrine of the chosen. It arises most powerfully in a parable of Jesus. Mind you, parables are like allegories. They can actually find different meanings to different people.

- This serves the purpose of speaking to a man in any place and any time.
- It allows us to bring ourselves to the story.
- It also serves to reveal to one and conceal from another, so they have to be approached with care.

The Parable is found in Matthew 22. It is one of the Kingdom parables, introduced by the formula:

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The Kingdom of Heaven is like. . . The Kingdom of Heaven, said Jesus, is like a certain king, a sovereign, who planned a marriage for his son. A royal wedding is a very big deal, nothing at all like the marriage of even a wealthy man. The people who would be invited to such marriage would themselves be important men, chieftains perhaps. Which might explain their response. They snubbed the first invitation and mistreated, even killed, the servants who brought the insistent second invitation. The result was predictably dire. The king sent armies the next time and burnt the cities of these arrogant barons.

The invitation to the Kingdom of God is much broader than some of us used to think, but it is meaningless without an RSVP. And you don't show up to a wedding in blue jeans and running shoes. Respect to the occasion and respect to the King is demanded.

In a radio program, not long ago, Ron laid the responsibility for the sorry mess our society has become at the feet of Christians. We have stopped reading our Bibles as our forefathers did. Like salt gone flat or leavening that has no life, we no longer affect society as we once did—nor families, nor churches. But it would be a mistake to think of the remnant in terms of this or that church.

Jesus said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." There are even those who will seek to enter, but won't be able. They are not all together in one place. That might make it too easy to gather them up and wipe them out.

If you want to better understand what your calling means and what it means to be one of God's chosen, you need to order this *FREE* CD, *The Remnant*. It's crucial for you to understand just what is required to be one of the chosen. Will you be there with bells on, or will you miss out? Don't put this down until you return the enclosed card for your *FREE* copy of *The Remnant* and we will rush this most insightful CD to you. It will be one you will want to hear more than once and share it with your church and your friends. This is most important!

**Christian Educational Ministries  
Statement of Cash Flows  
for the Year Ended  
October 31, 2012**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Contributions	\$ 943,681
CEM Bookstore	75297
Other Income	<u>1837</u>
	\$1020815

<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
A/V Supplies	\$ 13678
Occupancy	11549
Office & Adm. Expenses	22344
Professional Fees	4577
Mailing Expenses	4218
Postage	69583
Printing	43485
Media-Radio & Prod	538051
Telephone & Utilities	20657
Editorial Services	26285
CEM Bookstore	12513
Employee Benefits	19004
Wages & Payroll Taxes	<u>186445</u>
Total Operating Exp.	<u>\$972389</u>

Increase in Fund Bal. \$ 48426

**Feast of Tabernacles  
Statement of Operations 2012**

Total Offering	\$ 31863
Total Expense	34349

Decrease in Fund Bal. (\$ 2486)  
(Reflects receipts through Oct. 31,  
2012 only; excludes in-kind donations)

## Short Takes

Uppermost in the minds of our readers and listeners is the question of how Ron Dart is doing—how is he progressing in his recovery. All of us look forward eagerly to the time when he can once again teach and preach with the depth and insight that we all enjoy so much. There is much that Ron can communicate right now, if we but take the time to listen. More and more, as he listens to his own broadcasts, watches the news, or attends a church service, he'll make a comment. We've decided to collect a few of his comments to share with you each month in this column.

"God has his ways and we have ours, and they aren't the same. We need to respect people who see things differently from us."

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*That the man of God may be  
proficient and equipped for  
every good work.*