

## **Statistically Speaking...**

### **The Remnant, a Reason to Rejoice**

We just read about rejection and some of the ramifications it can cause and the coming rejection God will have on those who do not obey His Commandments.

We have really been examining the self in preparation for this year's Passover in our topics and rejection is but one other that can have its roots in pride and unforgiveness. But to lighten the heart a bit, let us take a look at the grace and mercy of God's acceptance and awesome love for us and how truly blessed we are just to be sitting in this room.

It is interesting to look at numbers from time to time and in this instance, it is quite fitting. I received an email this week that details some thought-provoking statistics.

#### **THE EARTH'S POPULATION STATISTICS PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE:**

The population of Earth is constantly changing, but it's around 7.9 billion at this time. Check it out @World Population Clock: 7.95 billion people (2022) -

Worldometer ([worldometers.info](http://worldometers.info))

For most people, this is an unfathomable figure. However, if we condense that 7.9

billion into 100 persons, and then condense it further into various percentage statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of 100 people:

11 are in Europe

5 are in North America

9 are in South America

15 are in Africa

60 are in Asia

49 live in the countryside

51 live in cities

75 have mobile phones

25 do not

30 have internet access

70 do not have the availability to go online

7 received a university education

93 did not attend college.

83 can read

17 are illiterate.

33 are Christians (There are an estimated 2.2 to 2.5 billion Christians in the world, which makes Christianity the largest religion on the planet).

22 are Muslims

14 are Hindus

7 are Buddhists

12 are other religions

12 have no religious beliefs.

26 live less than 14 years

66 died between 15 - 64 years of age

8 are over 65 years old.

Think about this - If you live in your own home, are able to eat full meals & drink clean water, have a mobile phone, can surf the internet, and went to college, you are in a minuscule percentage of the population and are a highly privileged person

this day.

(This equates to being in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world - **only 8 will live or exceed the age of 65!**

If you are already over 65 years old - **be content, grateful, and thank God; cherish life, and grasp every moment.** If you did not leave this world before the age of 64, like the 92 persons who did pass before you, you are truly blessed amongst mankind. Take good care of your own health. Cherish every remaining moment.

Another interesting batch of stats along the same theme:

“If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep you are richer than **75%** of the world.

If you have money in the bank, your wallet, and some spare change you are among the top **8%** of the world’s wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the **million people who will not survive this week.**

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering.

If you can read this message you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read it at all.” ~ Unknown

Definitely some thought-provoking information. Only 8 out of 100 people make it past 65! That is incredible, considering some of us are nearly double that now...

However, God promises us 70 years and maybe a little longer.

**Psalm 90:10-** “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years, yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away.”

Another interesting statistic mentioned were the number of professing Christians in the world. The estimates I found on line were between 2.2 and 2.5 billion.

Depending on which website and who is trying to spin what agenda, the number may vary slightly. Of that number, the United States supposedly has 246,780,000 people professing Christianity out of a total population of 326.7 million people!

One would think that with nearly 2/3rds of the population were truly worshiping God and keeping His Commandments, we would not be in the mess we are in. But with the “have it your way” mentality, we have multiplied into over 33,000 various

denominations, again depending on which website you visit. Why? Paul nailed it when he asked the Corinthian Church, “why so many?”

**1 Corinthians 1:10-13-** “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; rather, *that* you be knit together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For my brethren, it has been declared to me concerning you, by those of *the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, since everyone among you says, “I *am* of Paul”; or, “I *am* of Apollos”; or, “I *am* of Cephas”; or “I *am* of Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?”

And of that 246+ million “believers,” just how many are truly keeping, doing, and obeying God’s Commandments, His Sabbaths, and His Holy Days? Just a small remnant.

What is a remnant? One of the definitions listed in the On-Line Dictionary is:

“A small surviving group of people.” How fitting is that? We will have “survived” if we are sealed when we are called to our rest if The Lord does not return before then. Again, there are various numbers for the members of the Church of God and its various splinter groups, but somewhere near 7 million members *worldwide*.

That means that the “remnant” in this case is less than 3% of the total number of Christians in the US alone. That remnant is less than 1% of the population of the Earth. (If my calculations are off, I did not have enough fingers and toes). The real number will be revealed when the trumpet sounds and those who are chosen will be called to the First Resurrection. Statistically, that is ***NOT*** a lot of people. Of those listed in the 7 million members of God’s Church, how many are actually living and doing what He said to do? With a joyful heart? A contrite Spirit? Or merely playing church? We will know them by their fruits. **(Matthew 7:16, 20)**

So, where am I off to with these thoughts? Lord knows...The staggering figure of living as long as we have and the blessings, we have should have us doing cartwheels and back flips. We would end up in traction if we tried that nowadays anyway but you get the point. Simply rejoicing is a lot easier.

Now add to that astronomical longevity, we have been *given* the truth of God and His Way of life, through His Son, Jesus Christ! Not the watered-down versions of Protestantism or Catholicism but the Holy Spirit instilled Word of God. We have understanding of salvation, of God’s plan for mankind, the promise of the First Resurrection and so on. The closer we get to God, the closer He will get to us.

**John 10:9-11-** “I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and shall find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that *they may have life, and may have it more abundantly*. I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

We have been purchased with the costliest of prices. We have the promise of eternal life in His Kingdom and at the First Resurrection! ***IF***, we follow His way of life to the letter. The things of earth are no longer in focus. We have been pulled from the mire of sin and eternal death. WE have been forgiven. We have direction, hope and God’s promises. If that is not an abundant life, someone please clue me in to what your definition is.

**Romans 5:17-** “For if by the offense of the one man death reigned by the one, how much more shall those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life by the One, Jesus Christ.”

Jesus Christ came to Earth to reunify man with God, to pay the ultimate price for our sin debt once and for all, which we of ourselves would never be able to do. ***If*** we follow His example, His teaching and reflect and grow in His likeness, we will have full and desirable lives. This does not equate to things or material possessions, we can just reflect on the stats we have listed above to see how



blessed we *already* are. This however does not negate material things we *may* want as He will give us the desires of our hearts according to *His will*.

**Psalm 37:4-5** “Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass.”

We have the hope of eternal life with Him in His Kingdom, again, ***IF*** we are faithful and obedient.

**1 Peter 1:3-4**- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us,”

**Titus 1:2**- “In *the* hope of eternal life, which God Who cannot lie promised before the ages of time,”

**Titus 3:7**- “So that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

To be given so great a gift (as Cookie said at her Baptism) is so overwhelming but yet cares in this life can drag us down. It is not difficult to yield to the whispers of the enemy when we look at circumstances and people ***rather than look to God*** ***FIRST***. Long faces are for horses, not followers of The Lord.

**Nehemiah 8:10-** “Then he said to them, “Go, eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions to those for *whom* nothing is prepared, for *this day is* holy to our Lord. And do not be sorry, for *the joy of the LORD is your strength.*”

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-** “Now then, as for the rest, brethren, we are beseeching and exhorting you in *the* Lord Jesus, even as you received from us how you are duty-bound to walk and to please God, that you would abound *still* more.” When we are walking with God, we are being obedient and *growing in our relationship with Him.*

When we are called out from this world, we should no longer walk in the flesh.

**1 Peter 4:2-** “*To this end: that he no longer live his remaining time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*” We mentioned in the other essay that we are to pursue peace with all men. This is more than possible when we are close to God.

**Proverbs 16:7-** “When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Andrea and I were talking the other night about just how blessed we are and have been. We serve an awesome and living God and He is faithful to the letter of His Word. This coming week, if the world is encroaching on you and the enemy is in

your face, stop and thank God and our Savior Jesus Christ for all they do, have done and continue to do in our lives every day because they love us. They are always with us and watching over us, They will never leave or forsake us.

**Hebrews 13:5-6-** “*Do not allow the love of money to influence your behavior, but be satisfied with what you have; for He has said, “In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.”* So then, let us boldly say, “*The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*” (**Deuteronomy 3:6,8, Joshua 1:5**).

**Psalm 121-** A Song of degrees.

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills: from where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He Who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He Who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your life. The LORD shall guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”

Rejoice in being part of the remnant! Amen.

