

Great Controversy Series  
**Apostate or Remnant**  
 Chapter 4 - The Waldenses  
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

**Are you an Apostate or Remnant in these last days?**

Apostate: Christian Church Apostasy is departure from Bible truth as explicitly revealed in the ministry of Jesus and His Word. Apostate Christians mix the world and the church, the holy and with the profane, truth and error. They have departed from the pillars of truth but still claim the name and position.

Remnant: Remnant Christians are those who remain on the pillars of truth by abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in them. They have afflicted their souls before God and totally left the world and fully dedicated their lives to the service and will of God. The Word of God is not a theory, an experiment, or a profession, but practical lifestyle and experience.

During the time of Elijah, he was a remnant at a time when Israel was in great deep apostasy. The apostasy was so deep and spread out so far that he thought that he was the only one left. But God has a people who have stood the test of apostasy and remained on the pillars of God's truth when the great majority have jump into the ocean of apostasy.

**What did Paul say to the church in Rome concerning this?** This was the very place later that led out in apostasy!

**Romans 11:1-5**

- 1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.
- 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
- 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.
- 4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.
- 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Later it was the church of Rome that led out in the deep apostasy that formed the Roman Papal Church that slaughtered millions of the remnant of God's faithful.

**Remember: who will be the class of people that Satan will use the most to attack the remnant?** Apostate Christians especially those who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Those who know the judgment of God but have pleasure in SIN. These are NOT ex-adventist, but apostate Adventists.

**Is remnant status based on affiliation or denomination?**

Remember who is the objects of Satan's attacks in the last days

**Rev 12:17** And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus build the foundation of the pillars of Bible truth. The remnant are not concerned about popularity, they HOLD on and remained on the pillars of truth of God, they

remain on the Mt. Of TRUTH. Even though they are persecuted, taunted, or killed, they stay on the Mt. Of TRUTH! Even though in-laws kill their baby, they stay on the Mt. Of Truth!

The Remnant are true soldiers of Jesus Christ who are not afraid to fight the good fight of faith with the Word of God! They have victory over sin through Jesus, conquering and not being conquered by the devil!

### **Jesus describes the remnant in John 15... Here are a few excerpts.**

John 15:4-8

- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 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.
- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

“Abide” Menō [Greek Thayer Definition] 1) to remain

Remnant status is not based on affliction or membership in a church denomination. Many SDA believe that having their membership on that roles of the SDA church gives them automatic remnant status. NO!

### **What did God say to apostate Israel who taught they had automatic “remnant” status?**

Zephaniah 3:1-4

- 1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!
- 2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.
- 3 Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.
- 4 Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

### **What does God say about the “remnant” who remain on the Mt. Of Truth, who never left God's pillars of truth?**

Zephaniah 3:12-13

- 12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.
- 13 The **remnant of Israel [God prevails] 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.

### **What MUST the “remnant” of God's people do in the midst of great apostasy?**

**Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common [profane / unholy] salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [encourage] *you* that ye should earnestly **contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

Contend = “struggle” and fight forward against the apostasy and the resistance that Satan will bring to fight against the remnant.

The remnant of God's people holding of the light of truth are **NOT cowards**, they do not put their heads in the sand, they are soldiers willing to be sacrificed for truth's sake.

**Do the remnant stay quiet in the midst of apostasy? What is a major qualifying factor of truly being a part of God's remnant church in the last days?**

**Isaiah 58:1**

1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

“Cry” (Hebrew)

qârâ' (*kaw-raw'*) : to *call* out to (that is, properly *address* by name), preach, (make) proclaim (-ation), pronounce, publish, read. (Strong's Hebrew Definition)

**Ezekiel 9:4**

4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh [groan or mourn in grief] and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Only the remnant who cry aloud and sigh and cry for all the abomination will receive the seal of the living God.

**What is a major responsibility of church leadership and conference officials? What will happened if they decide to ignore or stay quiet about abominations that are being lead by pastors and other leaders in the church?**

**Ephesians 5:11**

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

**Ezekiel 3:18-21**

18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Psalms 50:17-18**

17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

18 When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst [consent] with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers.

**2 John 1:9-11**

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

In every age in the midst of periods of deep apostasy among the professed people of God there has been a remnant people of God holy and pure who have decided to remain on the pillars of Bible truth!

“Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God--men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know. They were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented, or mutilated. Yet they stood firm, and from age to age maintained their faith in its purity, as a sacred heritage for the generations to come.” GC - 61

Is this you? Are you truly apart of the remnant? Let’s look at the remnant church in the past who had to go through a time of apostasy and the dark ages of Papal Rome from 530 AD to 1798. We must learn lessons from what they had to endure so we can endure as God’s remnant church in the last days.

Daniel 8:12 reveals that during Papal Roman Empire, that they “cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.”

Remember the word of God is a light to the world, when it is cast down the world will be dark. This is exactly what happened during the Papal Roman Empire. It was in deep darkness. In order to keep Satan’s church scheme in the dark, they had to suppress, oppress, arrest and kill the true people of God, the remnant. 1260 years the papacy tried to keep the light of truth in darkness so it will not reach the minds of thousands who were under their bondage.

Daniel 7:25 reveals the persecution and cruel nature of Papal Rome “shall wear out the saints of the most High” during the 1260 years of their reign.

Over the centuries Papal Rome has destroyed many books and records that exposed the multitudes of aristocracies and murders that was conspired and commented by the papacy, but in God’s providence and the testimonies of survivors many of the Papal Rome’s past cruelty is known and well published.

Remember God reveals the lessons of the past so we know what we need to know now and in the future as God’s last day remnant. Now that we have a Biblical foundation of the characteristics of the remnant church let’s learn lessons from the remnant church that withstood the power of the papacy.

In the first centuries the NT church was able through the power of the Holy spirit able to touch many inhabited places of the earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **How far did Jesus say the NT church gospel of Jesus Christ would reach?**

Acts 1:8

8 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

As proof that God’s true gospel went around the world and that the NT Testament church taught others about God’s seventh day Sabbath, the “sabbath” is found in the names of over one hundred languages around the world that is used to represent the seventh day of the week, Saturday.

(Show chart of languages)

## **Apostate Papal Rome Vs. Remnant (examples)**

### **Great Britain**

In Great Britain before the Papacy was able to wrap their chains around Great Britain, centuries before that there were a remnant who were holding on the TRUTH of God's word and keeping ALL the commandments of God. They were persecuted by the Empire of Rome and later by Papal Rome.

“No sooner had the papacy obtained power than she stretched out her arms to crush all that refused to acknowledge her sway, and one after another the churches submitted to her dominion.” GC - 62

### **Missionary Columba**

“In Scotland, a century later, it shone out with a brightness that extended to far-distant lands. From Ireland came the pious Columba and his colaborers, who, gathering about them the scattered believers on the lonely island of Iona, made this the center of their missionary labors. Among these evangelists was an observer of the Bible Sabbath, and thus this truth was introduced among the people. A school was established at Iona, from which missionaries went out, not only to Scotland and England, but to Germany, Switzerland, and even Italy.” GC – 62

### **Heathen Angelo-Saxons**

In the sixth century 501-600 AD the Angelo Saxon barbarian tribe took over Great Britian, Papal Rome sent its apostate missionaries to convert the heathen Angelo Saxon to Catholicism. In turn they persecuted the remnant church in Great Britian. Many had to flee to the Mountains and various lands, but in doing so they still spread the message of truth that opposed the doctrines of the papacy.

### **Beyond Papal Roman Empire**

“In lands beyond the jurisdiction of Rome there existed for many centuries bodies of Christians who remained almost wholly free from papal corruption. They were surrounded by heathenism and in the lapse of ages were affected by its errors; but they continued to regard the Bible as the only rule of faith and adhered to many of its truths. These Christians believed in the perpetuity of the law of God and observed the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Churches that held to this faith and practice existed in Central Africa and among the Armenians of Asia.” GC - 63

### **Waldenses**

“But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission.” GC - 64

Waldenses were a group of Christian believers who was established around the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century (1100's AD) located about 415 miles north of Papal Rome known as the Piedmont of Italy or the Alpine Valley that was on the border of France and Switzerland. Their main language was French. In French the Waldenses was spelled [voh-dwah] Vaudois. “Vaud” in French refers to the people of the Vaud which is the mountain “foot” of the Piedmont.

“Known as "people of the Book," scripture is what embodied the faith of the Waldensians — they lived by it and died for it. They were tortured, exiled and martyred, and still the faith that drove them from the Alpine Valleys of Italy to the foothills of North Carolina survived.” [<http://www.waldensiantrailoffaith.org/waldensian-timeline>].

They were seventh-day Sabbath keepers for centuries until compromise and apostasy later crept in the church.

For centuries the Piedmont was a haven of rest from Papal Rome, but eventually the iron fist of papacy was able to wage all out war and persecution on the Waldenses. Those who refused to compromise with the papacy was hunted like dogs, burned to the stake, throw off cliffs, babies smashed, and suffered other cruel devising of torture and death. But the faithful would not let go of God's truth and bow to Rome.

Evangelism was the focus of their education. They trained their children in the scriptures and manual labor. Many were trained as merchants and "undercover" evangelist who sought after honest hearts of people who wanted the light of truth in the midst of the papacy's terrorism. They memorized whole books of the Bible just in case their Bibles were taken from them they would be able to reproduce it again.

"The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution. They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth." GC 65

Notable Waldensian history [<http://www.waldensiantrailoffaith.org/waldensian-timeline> and Wikipedia]

#### **58 - 59 A.D.**

Apostles of Christ plant seeds of Christianity in the Waldensian Valleys as they travel across the Cottian Alps into Gaul (France) and other parts of Europe.

#### **1120 AD**

An ancient Confession of Faith of the Waldensians predates Calvin, Luther, and Peter Waldo. Peter Waldo was not the founder of the Waldenses but later became a leader in the Waldensian church.

#### **1165 AD**

Waldensians escape persecutions in France by fleeing to the Valleys of the Piedmont, and find there like-minded brethren, with whom they enjoy a mutual edification of faith.

#### **1173 AD**

Peter Waldo, wealthy merchant of Lyon (France), experiences true Christian conversion, divests himself of his wealth — using some to have a **few passages of scripture translated from Latin to French**. He then takes up the cause of evangelism. He and other fellow evangelist from Lyon called themselves "the Poor in Spirit," but soon become known as "the Poor of Lyon."

#### **1180's**

When Waldo and his followers ignore repeated warnings by the papacy's Archbishop of Lyon to stop preaching, their punishment is excommunication and exile. Waldo finds sanctuary among like-minded believers in the Waldensian Valleys of Italy, who buy into his zeal for evangelism and accept him as their leader.

#### **1215**

Pope Innocent III officially denounced the Waldensians as heretics.

#### **1400's**

The papacy depicted the Waldensians as "witches".

#### **1487**

Pope Innocent VIII issued a bull for the extermination of the Waldensians. Horrible massacres took place. Many fled the Piedmont to other locations.

**1545**

Massacre of Mérindol: Thousands of Waldensians were killed by Papal Rome and villages devastated.

**1655**

Piedmont “Easter” Massacre: As result of refusing to attend the Catholic Mass, over 1700 Waldenses were slaughtered on April 24, 1655.

According to one report by a Peter Liegé:

“Little children were torn from the arms of their mothers, clasped by their tiny feet, and their heads dashed against the rocks; or were held between two soldiers and their quivering limbs torn up by main force. Their mangled bodies were then thrown on the highways or fields, to be devoured by beasts. The sick and the aged were burned alive in their dwellings. Some had their hands and arms and legs lopped off, and fire applied to the severed parts to staunch the bleeding and prolong their suffering. Some were flayed alive, some were roasted alive, some disemboweled; or tied to trees in their own orchards, and their hearts cut out. Some were horribly mutilated, and of others the brains were boiled and eaten by these cannibals. Some were fastened down into the furrows of their own fields, and ploughed into the soil as men plough manure into it. Others were buried alive. Fathers were marched to death with the heads of their sons suspended round their necks. Parents were compelled to look on while their children were first outraged [raped], then massacred, before being themselves permitted to die.” *Wylie, J. A. (1996) [1860]. History of the Waldenses. Hartland. p. 132.*

### **The modern papacy acknowledges their past persecution to the Waldensians.**

“Pope Francis asks Waldensian Christians to forgive the Church”

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/06/22/pope-francis-asks-waldensian-christians-to-forgive-the-church/>

“Francis has become the first pope in history to visit a Waldensian evangelical church

Pope Francis has asked Waldensian Christians to forgive the Catholic Church for historic persecution.

The Waldensian church, which was founded in the 12th century, was rejected by the Catholic Church and its members were brutally persecuted during the Middle Ages.

“On the part of the Catholic Church, I ask your forgiveness, I ask it for the non-Christian and even inhuman attitudes and behaviour that we have showed you,” said Pope Francis.

### **Did you know about the Waldensian “Separation”? Yes. Why did this separation take place and what lessons can we learn about it in our day?**

“After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew; some, forsaking their native Alps, raised the banner of truth in foreign lands; others retreated to the secluded glens and rocky fastnesses of the mountains, and there preserved their freedom to worship God.” - GC - 64

### **The Sabbath Compromise**

“Among the leading causes that had led to the separation of the true church from Rome was the hatred of the latter toward the Bible Sabbath... The churches that were under the rule of the papacy were early compelled to honor the Sunday as a holy day. Amid the prevailing error and superstition, many, even of the true people of God, became so bewildered that while they observed the Sabbath, they refrained from labor also on the Sunday. But this did not satisfy the papal leaders. They demanded not only that Sunday be hallowed, but that the Sabbath be profaned; and they denounced in the strongest language those who dared to show it honor. It was only by fleeing from the power of Rome that any could obey God's law in peace.” GC - 65

Those who refused to submit and go along with the leadership of the Waldenses' compromise with papal Rome had no choice but to separate from the apostasy. They were the true remnant of the original faith that Jesus as given His church. The leadership left the truth, but the faithful few stay on the Mt. Of Truth!

**Like the Waldensian faithful those within the corp SDA Church have to make a decision, to either continue on in the apostasy that is taught by the leaders and pastors of the SDA church or separate.** Like the Waldenses they may not have the big church buildings to worship in but they may have to start or attend home churches, small groups in store fronts, in the caves of mountains, or around an oak tree. They refuse to bow to apostasy.

Like the leaders of the Waldenses, the SDA church has reached their hand across the gulf and clasp hands with the papacy for several years. The latest meeting of was Diop in Vatican with Pope Francis (show pics)

The General Conference continues to aid in the LGBT gay movement within the corp church.

### **The latest apostasy in the corp SDA Church – Signs of the very end....**

SDA Pastor REJECTS “Ancient” Bible Texts To Promote the LGBT Gay SDA Apostasy!

On March 11, 2017 Pastor of the Green Lake Church (SDA) in Settle, WA preached a [sermon](#) titled “What to do with real people.” Green Lake Church (SDA) appears to be a very conservative looking church.... No drums, rock music, miming... Beautiful music, but apostate.

Before the sermon, he interviewed the producer of the “Seventh-gay Adventist” movie, to set the stage for a sermon dedicated to acceptance of LGBTQ in the Bride of Christ.

Quotes from Pastor John McLarty sermon (Youtube.com) :

“It is time for us as a denomination to let go of the ancient texts that we have used to exclude people that God has clearly included.”

“Faithfulness to God does not always mean obedience to the ancient word.”

“If we are going to be faithful to God, there are times when we must push back against the ancient words.”

“Sometimes, the law needs to be bent to accommodate reality. Jesus and the apostles showed a similar flexibility”

“I argue... I have done so in print and now I will do it from the pulpit. That it is time for us as a denomination and it is time for us as a congregation to let go of the ancient text that we have used to exclude people that God has clearly included.”

Then he tells of his closet “gay” roommate in college that he tried to change through therapy etc. McLarty said it “didn’t work.” Later his roommate got married and became a “heterosexual” but abused young men. McLarty, did blame his roommate but the church!

Green Lake Church announcement March 11, 2017:

“Spring Lecture Series... The Spring Lecture Series features Daneen Akers and Stephen Eyer, creators of the film, Seventh-Gay Adventists, a documentary that follows three same-sex couples with deep ties to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sabbath afternoon, March 11, we will screen their latest film, Enough Room at the Table. This film captures the essence of an intense weekend dialogue among Seventh-day Adventists who hold widely varying views on this subject. It will set the stage for our final time of discussion. Lecture Series schedule: Sabbath School Sabbath, 9:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch Sabbath 12:30 p.m. Film, Enough Room at the Table Sabbath, 1:45 p.m.”

Pastor John McLarty as been a pastor in the corp SDA church for years. The conference leadership will not fire him. They are ALL in it together.

The corp SDA will reject the Sabbath during the Mark of the Beast crisis. Their characters are prepped and ready for it.

### **Remnant or Apostate – appeal...**

The time is now. Are you going to stay on the Mt. Of Truth or ride the apostate ship. Are you a remnant or an apostate? **Your profession does not mean anything! What is your lifestyle today? What are you preparing for?**