

could it be? Do you realize that means being still under the yoke of sin, and Satan, and this world. Sin destroys us, Satan is out for our ruin, and the world is passing and fleeting, leaving you empty and unfulfilled. Let me urge all still not coming to Christ, to come to Him today in humble trust and submission before Him, for in no other way will you ever find salvation nor any rest for your souls. And why wouldn't you come, so great sinner though you be, seeing the Saviour is so gentle and lowly of heart and casts away none that come to Him, trusting Him and sorry for sin?

Blessings for body and soul for now and forever are found with Jesus, even as we come to Him receiving out of His fullness grace for grace. Christ the Saviour brings true and ultimate rest for us. Next time, looking at Matthew 11:30, we will learn there is just nothing like belonging to Christ and following after Him. "For My yoke is easy" says Jesus in that verse, "and My burden is light." I pray God will use Matthew 11:29 to stir up Christians in God's ways and to lead those still unsaved into God's ways. For where could you find a better and more wonderful, true and gracious Saviour and Lord than Jesus Christ the Lord? Truly Jesus is the only Saviour of sinners, and the only one to have as Lord if you would be truly and eternally blessed. Even so, let me quote again the last three verses of Matthew 11 telling of Jesus' welcoming, instructive, and nurturing word. "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

Understanding and receiving these verses as wonderful words of life, you will agree with the poet who wrote:

Thy precious will, O conquering Saviour,
Doth now embrace and compass me;
All discords hushed, my peace a river,
My soul a prisoned bird set free.
Sweet will of God still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee!? (William E. Blackstone)

May such testimony be the Spirit worked fruit also on this radio message in honour of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners and Lord above all! Amen.

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JESUS' INSTRUCTIVE WORDS

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Last week we thought about this special verse, Matthew 11:28, under the theme, Jesus' welcoming words! And they are welcoming, inviting, friendly words to all who labour and are heavy laden, especially also with the guilt and bondage of sin. Come to Him, Jesus Christ the Lord, the great, glorious, almighty, wonderful, all-sufficient Saviour of sinners!

Today we want to look at the next verse, Matthew 11:29, where Jesus goes on to say, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Here we have certainly more friendly and encouraging instruction about coming to Jesus Christ. We will consider this text under the theme, Jesus' instructive words.

"Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." We can say these are instructive words, for here we learn more what is involved in coming to the Saviour. In truly coming to Jesus for salvation we must come in humble submission to Him as Saviour and Lord. A yoke in Jesus' time was something often seen on animals working in the fields. It was generally made of wood and it would fit on the neck and shoulders of the animal, and by it the farmer could guide the animal for the work at hand. Often even a yoke would be made for two animals as a team together, directed by the farmer. The yoke was part of the harness on animals that was used to pull a cart or plow, by which the animal's master kept it under control and guided it in useful work. Thus the yoke in New Testament times was like a symbol for submission in general. Jesus' call then in our text includes the call to submission to Him in all His ways.

Truly coming to Jesus Christ the Saviour involves being humbly submissive to Him and His Word. This is confirmed when Jesus further states, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me." The verb "to learn" here in the Greek is from the word base from which interestingly also comes the word for disciple or learner or follower. In other words, Jesus' true followers are learners of Him, disciples who are listening to Him and obeying Him, and seeking so to live. You can put it this way too...truly coming to Jesus means not only coming acknowledging Him as only Saviour from all your sins, but also owning Him as only Lord in your life. You don't truly come to Jesus Christ if you only view Him as Saviour for you but not as Lord. In true

repentance of sin, and in true faith before God, you apply to Jesus the Saviour and you submit to Him too, however He directs, and in all what His Word and will is. So the Lord leads His people by His Spirit and Word in the way of true conversion.

“Come unto Me...take My yoke upon you and learn of Me” is Jesus’ welcoming, instructive gospel invitation. God’s people are those who take this invitation to heart. Is this what marks your life, my friend? Do you come to Jesus time and again for salvation from all sin and in humble submission to Him? True believers in Christ are disciples of the Lord too, always seeking to learn from Him, always desiring to follow after Him, and truly sorry whenever that is not the case. Again I ask, ‘Is this what describes and marks your life too? From our text it can be said and should be said that if you say you love Jesus, but you will not be a follower of Jesus, then you are not being a true disciple of Jesus, not a true believer in Him.

In this regard let me ask, ‘Are you in any conscious way not taking Christ’s yoke upon you?’ Not taking Christ’s yoke upon you means in some way or another allowing those things in your life that are contrary to God’s Word and will. It is not living in repentance of sin and pursuing after holiness but more or less living as you please. Too many people who claim they are Christians today are living hardly different from the world and so little committed to the Christian church and her ministry. What about you in this regard? Do you take Christ’s yoke upon you even just in the matter of belonging to a local Christian church and being a regular and faithful member thereof, and someone who also gives of himself or herself for the ongoing ministry of the church? The point is in the life of a healthy Christian, the attendance of worship services is something that is a matter of highest priority under which everything else in life will be subordinate. This is part of taking Christ’s yoke upon you. And this yoke is not a matter of legalistic bondage but a matter of loving blessing from God.

Perhaps even now you may be convicted of not taking Christ’s yoke upon you in coming to Him in one way or another. Where there is true faith there will be true and deepening repentance too. Does this Word of God convict you? In fact, who will not admit there are countless ways, even as God’s people that we can show and prove ourselves as such slow and often even rebellious learners in Christ’s school? Does not the old nature and the world and the devil so often pull at us? Yet, when truly convicted, this is the evidence thereof, you come to Jesus Christ in hearty trust in His gospel of forgiveness of sins for Jesus’ sake, and you come in humble submission to Him, under the yoke of His gracious rule and holy Word.

And notice now further Jesus’ encouragement so to come to Him and trust and follow Him. For Jesus goes on to say, “Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” See here how the Saviour urges to trust and follow Him truly and

completely considering His Person and His way as Saviour and Lord! Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth. Jesus is a most loving, understanding and approachable, meek and gentle, and comforting Saviour and Lord. He is not oppressive in any way, but He is always just and good and kind and He leads in the way that is pleasant and wonderful.

Just think here of all Jesus’ glorious Person and His grand complete work as Saviour on behalf of sinners. What more could Christ have done? Surely no more need be done for the salvation of sinners than all Jesus did and accomplished for rebellious, guilty, corrupt people as we are by nature. Jesus’ death as Sinbearer for sinners, even His death on the cross, proves His gentleness and lowliness or humility in heart towards people like you and me.

It is very striking that Matthew 11:29 gives the only reference in all the Bible where the ‘heart’ of Christ is mentioned. In the Greek here the word is *kardia* from which we get our word cardiac, used often to express heart problems. Doctors speak of a heart attack as a cardiac arrest. Jesus saying He is meek or gentle of heart and lowly or humble of heart is telling us in the center and whole of His being, He is most kind and good and One not out to destroy our lives but to give life and that more abundantly.

What reasons to come to Christ as only Saviour and Lord and to submit only and always above all to Him in everything! This is also what all God’s true people confess and testify. God’s people know following self and sin, Satan and this world, or submitting to any idol god or religion of man’s making is empty and vain, but to seek and serve the Lord, to come to Him and take His yoke upon you is the way of salvation and blessing for now and forevermore! Indeed, it is the way of finding rest for your souls, as Jesus also says in the last part of the verse.

In verse 28 Jesus says, “Come unto Me...and I will give you rest. That is His promise, “I will give you rest.” And now in verse 29, Jesus promises, coming to Him and taking His yoke upon you, His yoke of trusting Him for all our salvation by grace alone and following Him as our only rightful Lord and Master, “ye shall find rest for your souls.” You see on the one hand how He promises to give rest when you come to Him, and on the other hand promises you will find rest when you trust and obey Him. I proclaim to you, in Jesus’ Name, He is most trustworthy on both accounts with both promises, indeed, with all His gospel promises. When you come to Him in humble faith and submission to Him, you will find what He has to give and what He delights to give, namely, peace with God, and peace of heart and mind, and peace forevermore! True and eternal rest is found in and through the Lord Jesus Christ believing on Him and following after Him for as long as you live.

Are you one who knows about Matthew 11:28-30 in the Bible and you have heard it often even maybe, but you have not yet come to Christ in true repentance and faith? You are still not under His salvation gospel yoke,