

God, our Saviour and Redeemer, He alone can offer this invitation. For anyone else to make such a statement would surely be absurd and hollow. Jesus alone knows every need of every person and He has the power to offer any needed solution. In Matthew 11:27 Jesus said, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father." He also said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

When Jesus speaks of heavy-laden people, He is referring to those burdened down with sin and the cares of this life. This same expression is used by the prophet Isaiah and the psalmist David in the Old Testament part of God's Word. "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me" (Psalm 38:4). Everyone in the world needs the rest Jesus freely offers. The Bible has many scriptures showing mankind's need for a Saviour. Several of these are: Romans 3:23; Isaiah 57:20, 21; Ecclesiastes 7:20. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (For further study, read Romans 3:10-18.)

When Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," He is speaking of salvation for the sinner who answers His call. He offers rest to the guilty conscience of those who acknowledge and repent of all their sins. By accepting this forgiveness that Jesus offers, you can be delivered from the unrest of your own selfish will, and your uncertainty over where you belong in God's plan for your life.

When we experience the rest Jesus gives, we can rest in His care as a child asleep in its mother's arms. This is possible only because Jesus removes our tension and anxiety and gives us His peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3, 4).

Jesus gives security when ye yield our lives to Him. He said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). This rest of your spirit is a direct preparation for bearing the yoke of Christian service that Jesus gives to those who follow Him.

The *second* part of Jesus' call, "Take my yoke upon you," is addressed to all who have come to Him, feeling their weakness and need and have confessed their sins and found Jesus as their personal Saviour. This personal call bids you to live in deep submission of your will to His will and in joyful obedience, in the service of your new Master.

After the Apostle Paul's conversion, He asked Jesus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). Jesus, in speaking to someone about Paul, said, "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:15, 16). As a farmer of Jesus' day used a yoke of the right size to make it easier for the animal to pull the load; Jesus has a special yoke of service for all who follow Him.

There is much work to be done for Jesus and He has given many directives for His people to follow. A few of these are: give your life for His sake, Matthew 16:25; love your neighbor as yourself, Matthew 19:19; watch and pray, Matthew 26:41; forgive others, Mark 11:26; "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not

be able" (Luke 13:24); read your Bible, John 5:39; keep His commandments, John 14:15; witness to others about Jesus, Matthew 28:19. We learn to know Jesus best when we are yoked with Him in Christian service.

Our *third* area of Jesus' words is, "Learn of Me." In saying this He did not mean a casual knowledge of Himself, but an "all out" commitment to Him. In another place He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:24, 25).

The Apostle Paul worked hard to learn more about Jesus. In Philippians 3:7-11 he says, "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them as [refuse], that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

We see in these verses that we, like Paul, must give our entire being to Jesus for His use in His godly plan for us. It is through this commitment that we really, "learn of Him." The reason many Christians make no progress in grace and victory is because they are ashamed of Jesus. Then, because they are not walking close with Him, He cannot teach them His way. We enter Jesus' school when we take up His yoke.

What a wonderful blessing it is to be at rest while bearing Jesus' yoke of service. The reason we are happy while in His yoke is that we sense