

The yoke of Jesus

Matthew 11:29-30

An invitation

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

Salvation – an invitation

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Matthew 11:29 NKJV**

Invitation is for everyone. (Some teach that man has nothing to do with his salvation, God just chooses who He will save and who He will not.)

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **II Peter 3:9 NKJV**

Come – an invitation

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. ***Revelation 22:17 NKJV***

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ***Isaiah 55:1-2 NKJV***

Free will

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20 NKJV

Choose for yourselves

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” ***Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV***

Salvation is a gift

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will **give** you rest. **Matthew 11:29 NKJV**

Labor working to try to be good, to try and earn it.

Heavy laden with the burdens of sin, guilt and shame.

Either eating from the tree of knowledge of good or evil.

Grace - God's unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor.

Salvation is a gift

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. ***Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV***

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Romans 6:23 NKJV***

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” ***Acts 4:12 NKJV***

Repent

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17 NKJV

I tell you, no; but unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. **Luke 13:3 NKJV**

Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38 NKJV**

Believe

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one **believes** unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ***Romans 10:9-10 NKJV***

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ***John 3:16 NKJV***

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes** in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ***John 11:25 NKJV***

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ***Romans 10:13 NKJV***

A yoke

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take **My yoke** upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

Really, a yoke?

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ***John 8:32 NKJV***

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. ***John 8:36 NKJV***

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ***II Corinthians 3:17 NKJV***

We are supposed to be free in Jesus, why do we need a yoke?

Quote

Don't you think it's a little bit strange that Jesus' idea of getting us to rest in Him involves putting on a yoke? A yoke was not created for rest; it was created for work. It literally has nothing to do with rest at all. When Jesus invited the weary and heavy laden to come to Him and find rest, we would expect Him to say something like, *Take off that yoke you're wearing – you don't need it anymore! Doesn't that feel great? Now run... be free!* But Jesus' solution for yoke-weariness was not to cast off the yoke entirely; it was to yoke ourselves to Him, to walk in step with Him. Kerri Weems





My yoke is easy

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

2 classes of rest:

Come to Jesus, He will give you rest.

- Salvation is a gift. Knowing Jesus as your **savior**.

Take His yoke, you will find rest for your souls.

- Our souls need transforming. Knowing Jesus as your **Lord**.

Quote

To take Christ's yoke upon us signifies the setting aside of my own will and completely submitting to His sovereignty, the acknowledging of His Lordship in a practical way. In its larger sense, the yoke of Christ signifies complete dependence, unqualified obedience, unreserved submission unto Him. Arthur Pink

Quote

“To take Christ’s yoke means to submit oneself to the authority of Christ. It means to put ourselves under his rule, to join together with him. He is inviting people to put their shoulders into a new yoke, one in which he is the yoke mate. And he promises that, as they submit to his authority and are yoked with him, they will find rest for their souls.” Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

The yoke of Christ is perfectly fitted to support and aid us in fulfilling His purpose for our lives. It’s not always comfortable, but that’s not the point. It is always what I need for the path He wants me to walk.

Don't be yoked to the world

You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. ***Deuteronomy 22:10 NKJV***

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? ***Amos 3:3 NKJV***

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” ***II Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV***

Don't be yoked to the law

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a **yoke** of bondage. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt* to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. ***Galatians 5:1-6 NKJV***

The law

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. ***John 1:17 KJV***

For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. ***Matthew 23:4 NKJV***

Religion is a heavy burdensome yoke.

Jesus's yoke

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

Jesus's yoke is us coming under His lordship, obeying His teaching.

- **Gentle** – mild, meek, humble
- **Lowly** – lowly in spirit, humble, low degree
- **Easy** – better, easy, good, gracious, kind, pleasant, mild
- **Light** – light in weight, quick agile, easy

Lord

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord** and Christ. *Acts 2:36 KJV*

My Lord

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “**My Lord and my God!**” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” **John 20:24-29 NKJV**

Lord

Lord (Greek-*Kyrios*) means master, one to whom someone belongs, the owner, one who has control of the person.

But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?
Luke 6:46 NKJV

Are you willing to let Jesus control your life?

Lord

For Jesus to be Lord of your life means that He is the ruler, the boss, the master of your whole life. He cannot be Lord of a part — He must be given control of the entire life - the whole life.

What must a person do in order for Jesus Christ to be Lord of his life? The easy answer is, "Yield your life to Him." This involves taking your hands off the controls of your life and allowing Him to be in control.

Jesus is my co-pilot. Really? Get in the back seat and go to sleep.

Take up his cross

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ***Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV***

Put on His yoke. (Make Him your Lord, owner, master.)

Love God, love people

Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:29-31 NKJV**

Easy and Light:

- Compared to the weight of sin.
- Compared to the weight of the law.

Obedience

If you love Me, keep My commandments. ***John 14:15 NKJV***

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ***John 14:23 NKJV***

Easy and Light

Rest for your souls

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

You will find rest for your souls. An entirely different kind of rest from your salvation.

Your soul is the part of you that needs transformation.

3 - fold beings

- **Body**
- **Soul**
- **Spirit**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *I Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV*

Your soul is the part of you that needs work.

Our souls need transforming

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ***Romans 12:2 NKJV***

receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. ***1 Peter 1:9 NKJV***

Being yoked to Christ is what will transform your soul.

¶

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one **thousand** cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water *came up to my ankles*. Again he measured one **thousand** and brought me through the waters; the water *came up to my knees*. Again he measured one **thousand** and brought me through; the water *came up to my waist*. Again he measured one **thousand**, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen *this*?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. **Ezekiel 47:1-6 NKJV**

אָלָף

alaph

אָלָף eleph, eh'-lef; a family; also (from the sense of yoking or taming) an ox or cow:—family, kine, oxen.

אָלָף eleph, eh'-lef; (the ox's head being the first letter of the alphabet, and this eventually used as a numeral) a thousand:—thousand.

How deep do you want to go?

- Water ankle deep
 - Water knee deep
 - Water waist deep
 - Water to swim in

Are you willing to be yoked to Jesus?

The yoke

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:29-30 NKJV**

Put on the yoke of Jesus Christ. Make Him Lord of your life. Obey Him, follow Him, walk in His teachings. Surrender or give up your will, for His will.

This is where true rest for your soul is found.