

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

The Foundations of Our Faith

Discussion Guide
Vol. 10, No. 10
November 1, 2009

Sermon Title

Walking By Faith

by Paul Martin

Matthew 11:28

Introduction: The life of faith in Jesus Christ is a life of rest and peace. It is a truth from Scripture that our personal sense of spiritual rest is in proportion to our faith in the purposes and will of God for our life. Can we believe God in whatever He says is true? One of the most important areas of trust is in the realm of daily victory over sin, living a life pleasing to God.

Sermon Outline

I. A Plea to Give Up the Practice of Religion

- A. "Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28
- B. Labor—κοπιᾶω (1) physically become weary or tired (JN 4.6); (2) of strong exertions work hard, strive, struggle (1T 4.10); (3) emotionally become discouraged, give up (RV 2.3)—to become exhausted and emotionally weary from striving hard, in this case, after the unobtainable.
- C. Heavy Laden—φορτίζω; cause someone to carry something, load, burden; figuratively in the NT, of being weighed down with troubles and difficult circumstances (MT 11.28); metaphorically, of requiring burdensome legal observances burden, cause to do many hard things (LU 11.46)—to be about to drown in the effort to be godly

II. True Followers of Jesus

- A. "Take My yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
- B. Learn of Me—μανθάνω from a basic meaning learn, i.e. of directing one's mind to something and producing an external effect; (1) as learning through instruction be taught, learn from someone (JN 7.15); (2) as learning through inquiry ascertain, discover, find out (AC 23.27); (3) as learning through practice or experience come to know, come to realize (PH 4.11; HE 5.8); (4) as achieving comprehension understand, learn (RV 14.3)
- C. I am Gentle—πραῦς, πραεῖα, πραύ as a mild and friendly disposition gentle, kind, considerate, meek (in the older sense of strong but accommodating); gentle, unassuming people (MT 5.5)
- D. I am Humble—ταπεινός, ή, όν (c) as an attitude; in a good sense lowly, humble, gentle (MT 11.29; perhaps 2C 10.1); substantively ταπεινοί humble people (JA 4.6)
In Heart—καρδία, ας, ή heart; in the NT inner self; (1) viewed as the seat of physical vitality (AC 14.17); (2) viewed as the innermost self, the source and seat of functions of soul and spirit in the emotional life (AC 2.26), the volitional life (2C 9.7), the rational life (AC 7.23); (3) viewed as the human dwelling place of heavenly beings and powers (RO 5.5; 2C 1.22; EP 3.17);

III. Daily Abiding in the Sabbath Rest of God

- A. "And you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"
- B. My Yoke is Easy—χρηστός, ή, όν with a basic meaning being well adapted to fulfill a purpose, i.e. useful, suitable, excellent; (1) of things good, easy, pleasant; of requirements easy (MT 11.30); comparative χρηστότερος, τέρα, ον better, more pleasant (LU 5.39); morally upright, suitable, good (1C 15.33); of value superior, better (LU 5.39); (2) of persons kind, obliging, benevolent (EP 4.32); of God gracious, good (1P 2.3); (3) neuter as a substantive τὸ χρηστόν kindness (RO 2.4)
- C. My Burden is Light—ελαφρός, ά, όν literally, of weight light; figuratively, of a burden or trial easy to bear, insignificant (MT 11.30); limited in extent, light (2C 4.17)

Conclusion: Being in the yoke with Jesus is to walk with and learn from One who is kind, patient, and gentle—the best of all Teachers, and to literally be borne along in spiritual living in a way that is easy, pleasant, and well suited to life. It is a place of perpetual Sabbath rest.

Knowledge results in arrogance; the goal of our instruction is love.

Matthew 11:28 - 30

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Acts 15:7-12 ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

⁸ "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;

⁹ and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

¹⁰ "Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?"

¹¹ "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

¹² All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Discussion Questions

1.) Think back over all the teachers you have had in life. Who was the best teacher you ever had? What made them so good at teaching?

2.) Based on this study, how do you think the Teacher is likely to respond to you when you sin (when you know you have sinned and you are sincerely sad about it?)

3.) Why do you think Jesus, the Perfect Son of God, is likely to be a good teacher for the rest of us in the practical areas of resisting temptation?

4.) Is it a sin to be tempted? Explain your answer and give Scriptural support.

Matthew 5:13-20 ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 22:36-40 ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

John 1:17 ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

5.) List some of the implications of being in the yoke with Jesus:

6.) If the purpose of the yoke is to pull a cart or plow a field, how is it that Jesus describes being in His yoke as “easy” and “light.” Isn’t that a contradiction of terms?

7.) What is the relationship between “rest for your souls” and “work for the night is coming when man’s work is done” when you are in the yoke with Jesus?

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 ¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. ²³ I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 11:28 - 12:1 ²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

God’s Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God’s Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

