

Weaving the Word

Burden of Truth

November 11, 2018

Welcome to where we're learning how to practice the Truth!

Is Jesus your Savior ... or your shortcut?

"He's my Deliverer. My Redeemer. My Advocate. He bled and died and rose for me. He covers my sin and gets me in! He's my get-out-of-jail-free card. My backstage pass. *My free ride!*"

That took a *turn* somewhere along the way!

If Jesus *is* your Savior, then He's the Lord of your life. **So, is Jesus your Lord or your loophole?**



As we saw last Sunday, we must be weaned from poisonous self-reliance, and become like children who crave the milk *and then* meat of His Word.

And, Jesus teaches His children by leading us and training us in His Word, connecting thought to thought, and line to line.



All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, [through His Word] and no one knows who the Son is except the Father [who conceals it from the wise-in-their-own-eyes, and reveals it to weaned children]. Nor does anyone know who the Father is except the Son, [because He became an obedient child and dedicated himself to following Isaiah's line-upon-line instructions] and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. – Mt 11:27; Lk 10:22 NKJ



So, who qualifies for *this* big reveal? Little weaned children who practice truth and righteousness.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not *practice* the *truth*. – 1 John 1:6 NKJ

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who *practices righteousness* is *righteous*, just as He is *righteous*. – 1 John 3:7 NKJ

Then Jesus throws it open to anyone will to come on His terms.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take *My yoke* [a wooden collar used to connect animals, or a metal collar used to connect slaves] 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* [useful; manageable; pleasant] and *My burden* [load; cargo] is *light*.” [light in weight and/or affliction] – Mt 11:28-30 NKJ



Carrying a bride across a threshold is far lighter in burden and affliction than bringing in the bags, which likely weigh less.

For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal **weight of glory** ... – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJ



You thought His burden was weightless? Think again.

He's placed the eternal weight of glory on our necks!

So, how is *that* easy and light?

Simple. **It makes us strong ... if it's our delight.**

I can do all things through Christ who *strengthens* me. – Philippians 4:13 NKJ

[But] Unless Your law had been my *delight*, I would then have perished in my *affliction*.
– Psalm 119:92 NKJ

[Therefore] I *delight* to do *Thy will*, O my God ... - Psalm 40:8 KJV

It's only when *my will* begins to conform to *Thy will* that I can find true rest; because, **His will will offer His peace.**

My will leads to the heavy load of *enslavement*.

Thy will leads to the *lightness* of enslavement.

Does that surprise you?

Don't you know that ... you are *slaves* to the *one* whom you *obey* — whether you are *slaves* to *sin*, which leads to *death*, or to *obedience*, which leads to *righteousness*? But thanks be to God that ... you *wholeheartedly obeyed* the form of *teaching* to which you were *entrusted*. You have been *set free* from *sin* and have become *slaves* to *righteousness*. – Romans 6:15-18 NIV

Did you think He came to take away the workload? No. He came to strengthen us through His Word. His is a burden of Truth; ours, a burden of excuse.



He won't trick us with a Styrofoam yoke and keep us weak.

He equips you and strengthens you and inspires and empowers you, so the load will be *light* and the yoke *easy* ... *for you*. **He's not our excuse to stay weak.**

He's our *Trainer*.

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*.

Comfort is fleeting but rest is forever.

So, don't trade seeking, finding, and growing for *mere comfort*.

True rest comes from truth; and truth comes from discomfort.

Would you rather have light weights or strength? "**Light weights!**"

That's our problem. We're a bunch of *lightweights*.

We don't want to take *His* yoke. We'd rather take *our* shortcut.

How are those shortcuts working out for you?

Have you ever taken a shortcut but ended up taking further, keeping you longer, or costing you more in the end? **You can't cut corners with the Cornerstone.**



Horror stories often begin with: "I decided to take a shortcut ..." You rarely hear one begin with: "I was making my way down a well-lit street ..."

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*.

It's the only way to ease our *cruel, oppressive, burden*.

We foolishly expect the shortcut to ease our burden. But it won't. Can't. Not possible. *Know why? Because ... wait for it ... your oppressive burden ... is ... you!*

When one of this people ... asks you, "What is the **burden** of the Lord?" you **[Jeremiah]** shall say to them, "**You** are the **burden** ..." for the **burden** is every man's **own word**, and you pervert the **words** of the **living God** ... – Jeremiah 23:33-36 ESV

My iniquities have gone over my head; like a **heavy burden** they are **too heavy** for me ... because of my foolishness. – Psalm 38:4-5 NKJ

The **labor** of fools **wearies** them ... – Ecclesiastes 10:15 NKJ

What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a **burden** to myself? – Job 7:20 NKJ

You have not called upon Me ... and you have been **weary of Me** ... But you have **burdened Me** with your sins, you have **wearied Me** with your iniquities. – Isaiah 43:22, 24 NKJ

Therefore **humble** yourselves under the **mighty hand** of God, that He may **exalt** you in **due time**, casting **all your care** upon Him, for He **cares** for you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7 NKJ

Cast **your burden** on the Lord, and He shall sustain you ... – Psalm 55:22 NKJ

Open the gates, that the **righteous** nation which keeps the **truth** may enter in. You will keep him in **perfect peace**, whose mind is stayed on You, because he **trusts** in You. ... Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not **learn righteousness** ... – Isaiah 26:2-3, 10a NKJ

He gives **power** to the **weak**, and to those who have **no might** He **increases strength**. ... those who **wait** on the Lord shall **renew** their **strength** ... they shall **run** and not be **weary** ... – Isaiah 40:28b-31a NKJ

No one will be **weary** or stumble among them, **[and]** no one will **slumber** or **sleep** ... – Isaiah 5:27a NKJ

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have **no excuse** ... – John 15:22 NKJ

Excuses get us out of things without taking ownership.

They enable us to avoid facing the truth. They lay blame elsewhere, which helps us to feel okay about skirting responsibility, taking shortcuts, and being lazy.

But, **we accuse ourselves when we excuse ourselves.**

Anybody every ruin an apology to you by ending with a “*But ...*”? That type of excuse is the most dangerous, because it’s the most self-deceptive. **It’s tears without true desire to change.** It *looks like* repentance ... at first; but, **it’s really just empty words trying to get rid of our guilt or get us out of trouble.**

Excuses never improve your life, they just waste it.

But, when we’re honest with *ourselves*, and open to His Word, and seeking His face, **He’ll show us the faults and flaws that are hindering us from reaching our created purpose.**

And that’s what Jesus came to freely offer and accomplish.

Christ has set us **free**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be **burdened** again by a **yoke of slavery**. – Gal 5:1b NIV

Come to me all you weary short-cutters, burdened with the transgressions you’ve hung around your neck. Come to me, because My yoke of doing it the right way is the light way; and infinitely easier, freer, and less painful in the long run.