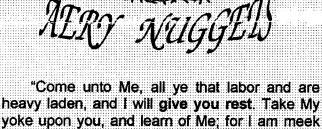
December 2006

shall up... EAGLES' WINGS ... with wings

... with wings as eagles." Isaiah 40:31

Dear Friends,



"They shall mount up...

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." Matthew 11: 28,29,30.

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast." I came to Jesus as I was, Weary, and worn and sad; I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me: thy mom shall rise And all thy days be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till traveling days are done.

-H.Bonar

What a wonderful invitation we have from the Lord Jesus! Come! Take! To those who respond to this double invitation we will notice that there are two kinds of rest that are mentioned. There is a rest that is given and a rest that is found.

Let's look at the first invitation. He says, "Come unto Me." This invitation is given to those who labor under a heavy load.

What labor is He referring to and what is this heavy load that the Lord Jesus is speaking about? That heavy load is sin. As we read "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. And the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. All our labor, our good works can never cleanse us from the heavy burden of our sins. But the good

news is that the Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;" 1st Timothy 1:15. When we accept His invitation and come to the Lord Jesus confessing our sins we receive the great gift of eternal life. We no longer have to labor under a heavy load of our sin. Our sins are all forgiven and we receive perfect peace and the Lord gives us that wonderful **rest** from the guilt of sin. I'm sure that most of my readers have accepted that wonderful invitation to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. As the hymn says "I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad. I found in Him a **resting place** and He has made me glad." That heavy load is lifted from us when we answer His precious invitation. We pray that this experience may be true of each reader!

The second invitation is: "take My yoke upon you." A dictionary defines a yoke as "a wooden bar or frame by which two draft animals (as oxen) are joined at the heads or necks for working together." Also it mentions that "a yoke fellow is a close companion." We naturally would think of a yoke as being very hard work. Especially if the one we were yoked with was not doing their share of the work. But our Lord Jesus says, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." How is His yoke made easy? Our love for Him makes it easy to bear. "We cannot help but love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. We then turn the control of our life over to the One who died for us and has promised to never leave us or to forsake us.

We see this demonstrated in the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Immediately after he was converted he said: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" This means submission to the will of God. We turn over control of our life to Him. In the epistle that Paul wrote to the saints at Rome he says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1.

Our love for Him then makes any thing that we can do to honor Him and serve Him something of special joy and pleasure. We will then find that His yoke is easy and His burden is light."

> "His yoke is easy, His burden is light, I've found it so, I've found it so; He leadeth me by day and by night, Where living waters flow."

As we take His yoke upon us and learn more and more of **Him** we find and enjoy that **rest** of soul that He gives to those who serve Him. The joy of the Lord will fill our lives and give us the strength to serve Him. In addition to that we will experience a peace that passes all of our understanding. One of God's promises is a peace that passes all understanding. **"Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."** Isaiah 26:3.

As we get older we will find that we can not always do the things that we used to do for the Lord. But we can say with the apostle Paul, "Lord, what will Thou have me to do?" We will find many ways that even in old age we can bear fruit for the Lord. One of the greatest ways is in prayer for those who are reaching out to those who are lost or to those who are passing through great trials. The assembly at Philippi was started when Lydia "whose heart the Lord opened" opened her home for the Lord's people.

Sometimes I fear we are like Martha careful and troubled about many things. It is so easy to be upset and troubled about the news that we hear and offen see around us. May we be like Mary who sat at Jesus' feet and heard His Word.

> O Patient, spotless One! Our hearts in meekness train, To bear Thy yoke, and learn of Thee, That we may rest obtain.

Jesus! Thou art enough The heart and mind to fill; Thy patient life—to calm the soul; Thy love—its fear dispel.

O fix our earnest gaze So wholly, Lord, on Thee, That, with Thy beauty occupied, We elsewhere none may see."

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

It is one thing to render to Jesus the tribute of admiration, or even tears, and another to join one's self with Him for better or for worse, through good and evil. . . One thing to speak well of Him, and another to give up all for Him. -J. G.B.

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