

WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD

PART 3 WORKING ALONGSIDE JESUS IN HIS REST

Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV **SLIDE**

Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest [I will Rest You]

²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

'TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU!'

SLIDE A yoke is a harness that couples two oxen together. THE WHOLE IDEA OF A YOKE ON AN OX IS THE IDEA OF **WORK AND SERVITUDE.**

SLIDE THE OX IS A WORKING ANIMAL ... **it pulls the cart ... it pulls the plough ... it treads out the grain.**

TO BE YOKED TO AN OX IS TO BE JOINED TO IT IN SERVICE ...

So when Jesus says, **'Take MY yoke'**, Jesus is putting Himself in the role of a working OX.

THIS IS ABOUT US WORKING WITH & ALONGSIDE JESUS.

THERE IS A WORK TO BE DONE ... AND GOD HAS A WORK FOR YOU TO DO

Many 'Grace Christians' say, "I'm not into 'Works'."

But the Grace message does NOT exclude 'Work' ...

The Grace message excludes '**OUR WORK**' –

Hebrews 4:10 BSB

*Whoever enters God's rest also rests from **his own work**, just as God did from His.*

That is his Own attempt at pleasing God ... and fulfilling God's will.

This means God doesn't require man's fleshly strivings to please Him or to fulfill His will ...

It means Jesus has fulfilled the laws demands and has already lived a life that pleased God for us, so now we can rest in His Finished Work.

HOWEVER, THE IDEA THAT WE HAVE CEASED FROM OUR OWN FUTILE WORK ... DOES NOT MEAN THERE IS NO MORE WORK TO BE DONE!

THERE IS STILL A WORK TO BE DONE ... IT IS GOD'S WORK!

Scriptures talks about 'dead-works' ... but also 'Good-Works'.
Let's not throw the baby out with the Bath-water.

EVERY BELIEVER IS CALLED TO WORK GOD'S GOOD-WORK

Ephesians 2:10 BSB **SLIDE**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life

THE BELIEVER'S LIFE SHOULD BE OVERFLOWING WITH GOOD-WORKS. EVEN THE WAY WE DO OUR SECULAR JOB IS A PART OF THESE 'GOOD WORKS'.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 BSB

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man (or woman) of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

SLIDE

*But you say ... 'I'm so tried and worn out from doing the work someone else told me to do ... I got so hurt ...'
And someone else says... 'I was such a failure ...'*

Friends, that's because you might have been doing the Wrong Work, or you might have been doing the Right Work the Wrong Way.

SLIDE

GOD WANTS YOU TO DO THE RIGHT WORK ... THE RIGHT WAY

WE CAN DO THE RIGHT WORK THE WRONG WAY & BECOME WORN OUT & DISCOURAGED

The first time I really heard God speak instruction to me was about 2 weeks after accepting Jesus as my Saviour.

I was in a house meeting with about 10 other Christians when I suddenly blurted out. 'I have to stop playing the guitar.'

The leader turned to me and asked why?

I said, 'I don't know!'

He said, 'Well that sounds like God ... He has by-passed your head and spoken to your heart.'

*So I gave up playing the guitar for about 6 months until I heard the Lord say again to me, '**NOW I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU TO PLAY MY WAY!**'*

THAT'S WHEN I BECAME A PRAISE LEADER.

I BECAME YOKED TO JESUS IN PLAYING THE GUITAR.

**THIS IS HOW DO WE DO THE RIGHT WORK THE RIGHT WAY.
WE MUST TAKE JESUS' YOKE UPON US!**

THERE IS A WAY TO DO THE WORK

After embracing The Finished Work OF Jesus ... We can now begin to Work WITH Jesus ... Alongside Jesus ... Leaning on Jesus ... Supported by Jesus ... and Led by Jesus.

It's here in This Work we Find His Rest IN all The Work.

- Quote from Chris's Facebook page.

I'VE LISTED 5 CONDITIONS OR RESULTS OF US BEING YOKED TO
JESUS

SLIDE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN ALONGSIDE JESUS ...

1. WE MUST START IN A STATE OF REST

To be yoked in with Jesus we do not work to achieve Rest ...
But we work in and from Rest.

WE BEGIN GOD'S WORK IN REST

Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV

Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest [I will Rest You]

²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me ...

Matthew 11:28 where Jesus gives us Rest, comes before Matthew 11:29 of doing the work.

And unless we've come through verse 28 we cannot get to verse 29.

BEING RESTED IN VERSE 28 QUALIFIES US TO TAKE THE YOKE

In verse 28 we come out of our own striving to achieve anything ...
and from WORKING BY THE SWEAT OF OUR BROW.

Adam was cursed to work by the sweat of his brow ...
His was A WORK WITHOUT REST! –

Genesis 3:19 Good News Translation **SLIDE**

You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed ...

Since then work has been a curse ...
We have hated work. It is arduous ...

The world does not know this Work in Rest.
The world views 'work' as the opposite of rest!

THIS IS NOTTTTT THE WORK WE ARE CALLED TO DO.
It is a great anomaly for The World ... that we Work In Rest ...

When we come to Jesus first we let go our work of trying to please God ... trying to provide for ourselves ... fighting to survive ... trying to win people for Jesus ... trying to make people more godly.
We come to a place of letting go onto Jesus ...

And here, weak and weary ... **HE RESTS US FROM THE SWEAT OF OUR BROW.**
NOW WE ARE A CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE HIS YOKE.

We may say in this place of wonderful rest – of being rested by Jesus – 'I don't want to leave this place ... I don't want to go back to the way I was ... striving ... becoming uptight ... and anxious ... How do I stay in this place and NOT go back into the world?' 'AH,' JESUS SAYS, 'TAKE MY YOKE & LEARN HOW TO MOVE FORWARD & WORK ALONGSIDE ME ... AND YOU WILL FIND CONSTANT REST IN ALL YOU DO ...'

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

WHEN I WAS RECOVERING FROM CANCER I was worried that ... because I had found such rest and grace in the suffering, that now in my recovering I would not be able to stay in this place of grace and rest.

I thought, 'SURELY NOW I HAVE TO WALK FORWARD ... SURELY NOW I HAVE TO WORK! ... BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO MY OLD WAYS ...'

I knew how I had formerly strived and stuffed things up!

SO MOVING FORWARD, BACK INTO LIFE, I WALKED MORE CLOSELY WITH JESUS ... MORE ACCURATELY ... MORE SENSATIVELY

I UNWHITTINGLY TOOK ON HIS YOKE AND LEARNED TO FIND REST IN ALL I DID.

TO WORK WITH JESUS IS A GREAT JOY.

DID YOU KNOW, ADAM WORKED IN JOY BEFORE HE FELL INTO SIN?

Adam tended the garden ... he named the animals ... and he governed ...

ADAM & EVE WORKED IN GOD'S ETERNAL 7TH DAY REST

ADAM & EVE DID THIS JOYOUS WORK ... WITHOUT SWEAT – THE WORK THAT IS NOT WORK ...

THIS IS THE WORK WE WILL EXPERIENCE WHEN WE ARE YOKED TO JESUS.

WE START IN HIS REST ... AND WE CONTINUE IN HIS REST.

SLIDE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN ALONGSIDE JESUS ...

2. WE COME TO A PLACE OF WILLING SUBMISSION

The Yoke goes on the neck – the neck is symbolic of our will.

In Exodus 32:9, God calls Israel a 'Stiff-Necked' People ... Stubborn and Independent ...

THE NECK SPEAKS OF OUR SELF-WILL.

WHEN I COME TO THIS PLACE, I SURRENDER MY NECK TO HIS YOKE ... MY WILL ALIGNS TO HIS WILL / HE HARNESSSES MY WILL.

NB: THIS IS NOT JESUS WALKING WITH US AS THE HYMN STATES –

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way

No.

THIS IS US 'WALKING WITH JESUS'

We see this contrast in Revelation 3:20 where Jesus says to Laodicea, 'I will sup with you ...' – i.e. at your convenience ... I'll enter your world and be with you.

But then He says ... 'You'll sup with me!'

That is – you enter My world ... you eat My food ... you come under my Lordship and leading ...

An old song we used to sing, expresses well this coupling of our WILL.

*Shepherd of my soul I give You full control
Wherever You may lead I will follow
I have made the choice to listen for Your voice
Wherever You may lead I will go*

SLIDE The Christian Guitarist-Singer Phil Keaggy also said it well -

*All my life's plan is Thy moulding
Not one single choice be mine
Let me answer uncomplaining
Father not my will but Thine
(Phil Keaggy – 'Disappointment')*

**NB: THIS IS NOT A HARD LAW THAT IS FORCED UPON US.
THIS IS OUR CHOICE TO 'TAKE MY YOKE'.
WE MUST WILLINGLY 'TAKE HIS YOKE'.
THIS NOW KEEPS US IN HIS REST.**

This is how we move forward in this place of Rest and Peace ...
This is how we do His Work.
This is how we move on in this experience of Rest and keep in Rest.

*I can now say ... I have learned, and am still learning, **How to walk with Jesus in His work for me.***

**GOD WANTS YOU TO DO HIS WORK ...
DON'T HIDE ANYMORE FROM HIS WORK ... GET YOKED IN**

SLIDE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN ALONGSIDE JESUS ...

3. WE MOVE IN HIS DIRECTION ... IN HIS WISDOM

Every time I prepare a sermon ... I get yoked in with Jesus. I hear Him leading me in His direction – go this way, go that way, or turn, leave that and move on.

SLIDE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN ALONGSIDE JESUS ...

4. WE WORK IN HIS STRENGTH WE LEAN ON HIM

When training a young ox ... it was coupled together with an older experienced and stronger ox who would bear most of the weight of the burden ... set the direction and lead the way ... pulling the plough or treading out the grain.

THIS IS THE THOUGHT HERE.

JESUS IS THE OLDER, STRONGER, MORE EXPERIENCED OX.
WE ARE THE YOUNGER, WEAKER, INEXPERIENCED CALF.

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

1 Timothy 1:12 BSB **SLIDE**

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has **strengthened me**, that He considered me faithful **and appointed me to service.***

2 Corinthians 12:9 BSB

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." ...

SLIDE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN ALONGSIDE JESUS ...

5. WE WORK AT HIS PACE

WALKING IN STEP

At His pace ... often we are brought to hold back ... sometimes it's time to move forward ... sometimes it's reserving our energy ...

Walking in a rhythm with Him ... flowing ... ON CRUISE-CONTROL

THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE

Matthew 11:28-30 Message Bible **SLIDE**

*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest [enter the State of Rest]. **Walk with me and work with***

me—watch how I do it. **Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.** I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

THE KEY TO STAYING YOKED, IS TO CONTINUALLY LET GO & COMMIT TO HIM EVERY STEP ... because every step we take we are inclined to think we can do it ...

LETTING GO TO HIM IS SAYING, 'I CAN'T DO IT LORD.'

When I got my first job as a 'sales-rep' I was a failure. I started out weeping on the roadside saying 'Lord I can't do this ...' I then took on His Yoke ... until eventually ... leaning on Him ... learning from Him ... listening to Him and letting Him lead ... I won the national competition for the biggest sales for that year – a feat that no one had ever achieved in the Sydney office.

Supplemental

UNCOUPLED MINISTRIES

SOME MINISTERS ARE ALL ABOUT BUILDING THEIR MINISTRY ... YOU GIVE TO THEIR MINISTRY ... THEY ARE USUALLY UPTIGHT ... HARD FACED MEN & WOMEN ... WHO ARE NOT WORKING WITH JESUS IN HIS STRENGTH OR DIRECTION ... THEY ARE 'UNCOUPLED MINISTRIES'.

Matthew 7:22-23 CLV

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord ... did not we ... do many wonderful works in your name ...' And then I will them, 'I never knew you, depart from me you workers of evil.'

They were NOT harnessed to Jesus ... they were uncoupled ...

SOME PASTORS ARE ALL ABOUT BUILDING THEIR CHURCH

Martha & Mary: Mary was coupled in with Jesus ... Martha was an uncoupled worker on her own ... in her own strength ...

THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU WAKE & REALISE IT'S YOUR DAY OFF ...

***THIS IS THE FEELING YOU GET STARTING THE WORK
ALONGSIDE JESUS.***