

“Rest for the Weary Soul”

By Jesse Rairdon

Sunday, January 21st, 2018

Don't stop on my account; continue to praise Him. He's worthy of our praise. Worthy is the Lamb, it says in Revelation, that was slain. Worthy is the Lamb that came broke the seal, and opened the Book, so that we could have eternal life. None is worthy but God. Not is worthy but the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated. Thank you, Jesus. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Today's message is “Rest for the Weary Soul”. The theme for this month is, “Learn of Me.” And our Scripture from the month comes from Matthew, chapter twenty-eight, or Matthew, chapter eleven, twenty-eight to thirty. It says:

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my 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.*

In the first week, Chris talked about going to God—we have to go to God—and how we need to look to God for that hope. A lot of people were coming to this country and the first thing they seen was the Statue of Liberty, and that Statue of Liberty was hope for them. Hope that they could have a better life for their families. Hope that they could come to a place where they could be free, from where they were oppressed. And today we look to God for that hope, and how we have to labor to enter into His rest. And the second week, Parrish talked about that yoke of God. How we need to learn of God, and how we need to kind of light up the world with the Gospel, and how we need to have Revival.

The three areas I'm going to cover today is:

1. Rest from Our Labors
2. The Way To That Rest
3. Renewal And Revival

Part 1: Rest from Our Labors

Genesis 2:1-3 *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

God blessed and sanctified the seventh day, why? Because He rested from all the work which He had created and made. Let me ask you this question: do you think God needed to take a nap? Do you think God gets tired and needs to rest? Or, from the beginning, was this for us? An example for us? Something for us to look forward to? My daughter don't think— she's three and a half now, going on sixteen—she don't think she needs to have naps. But, you know, Mom and Dad are there to kind of keep convincing her. Yes, you need to take a nap. And, the more we tell her, the grumpier she gets. Finally, she will go up there, reluctantly, and almost forcibly, sometimes, and take her nap, but she feels so much better after her nap. I've got to confess to you, too, every once in a while, I like a little nap. This weekend, even as I was preparing for the message, and, sometimes, as you know, those of you who

prepare to serve people, you stay up late at night, or early in the mornings, I was getting a little grumpy with my family. It's true. I'm sure my wife could tell, and she's very patient with me. I said, I need to go take a little rest. And, I found a place in the house where my daughter couldn't find me, and I took a little rest. I kind of hit reset, and then I got up and continued to help with things in the house, and meet the needs of the family, and continue to pray and seek God about the message. So, yes, God has a purpose for rest. But, God doesn't need to take a nap. He doesn't get weary and tired; He's not flesh like us.

The next Scripture, Chris used in his first week, and, normally, I don't go and try and preach somebody else's message, or use Scriptures that somebody else used, in a prior message. He used a group of Scriptures in the first week, but I just kept coming back to it, and God just wouldn't let me let it go. So we're going to go to Hebrews, chapter four, and we're going to read one through eleven. And I'd like to ask Brother Chris, if he wouldn't mind—I'm putting him in on the spot a little bit—if he wouldn't mind coming and reading that for us. Hebrews, chapter four, verses one through eleven:

Hebrews 4:1-11 *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

God has a purpose for His labor. When His labor was done, He had a purpose for rest. He wants us to stop laboring and enter into His labors and rest in Him, as we labor for Him. The works of God were completed on that sixth day, and on the seventh day He rested. We can't go back and recreate the world and recreate all that was in it; God did the work. That's why we have to come to Him, and learn from Him, take His yoke upon us, so that we can take, and learn the things of God, and take on His labor, and cease from our own labors. "Take my yoke upon you, learn of me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." We're going about to bear all these kind of things in our soul, cumbersome, so hard, so difficult, but God, all along, is saying, I can make it a lot easier for you. You don't have to live this life this hard. Yeah, we struggle, and deal with the things of this life, and please keep my wife and her family in prayer, as Omar had passed away, yesterday. Many of you were praying for him, he was stung by killer bees last Sunday. We were praying for a week for him, and he was laid to rest. He's done. His labors are done, and ceased on this Earth. So, continue to keep my wife and her family in prayer, as they mourn the loss of Omar my brother-in-law. And the family would like to put that thank you to all that have been praying, putting words of sympathy and encouragement out. Amen? So, if I seem a little heavy hearted, that's just on my mind today, but I have a message to preach.

Second Corinthians, chapter twelve, verses seven through nine:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: [This is Apostle Paul, here, when he was dealing with his thorn in the flesh. He asked God to remove this thorn, several times, three times, the Bible says. That's what we do, we go to God in prayer and we keep asking, we keep asking,*

and we get our answer. And this was his answer:] *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [Take My yoke upon you; the power of Christ may rest upon you.] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

When we take the grace of God in our lives upon us, these burdens are much lighter, much easier; our heavy hearts become lifted. The things that we've been carrying with us in our soul become a lot easier to bear. No, in this life, we're not going to have all our tears wiped away; that's going to come at the end. You know, for me, a lot of people look forward to the streets of gold, and all that's nice, and beautiful, walls of jasper, I like that stuff too, but when He's wiping away those tears from my eyes, and all the sorrow, and the suffering in this life; that to me is more precious than anything else.

So, Paul the Apostle was asking God to remove this thorn, and God's answer was, "Take my yoke upon you. Take my grace upon you. My Grace is sufficient for thee." As I was praying for this message that was laid on my heart, I contacted Cedric Christian to see if he had a poem about rest. Usually I don't do that, but it was just so, you know, and he said, "Yes, I have a couple of poems." And one of them that really got my attention was, "A Beautiful Rest." So I'm going to share that one with you and I pray that it ministers to you. "A Beautiful Rest." Many of you know brother Cedric, he was baptized here. He was shared with by Vince Stepchuk, his neighbor, and he was sharing with him baptism, he was baptized many years ago, and now he's down in our fellowship in Jacksonville, Florida, helping lead the fellowship there, and encourage the Saints there. So, this is a poem that he wrote, and he put it in his first book, it's called a beautiful rest.

BEAUTIFUL REST

After God created Heaven, Earth and living forms, He looked upon the holy neighborhood and considered all that He made in a time called six days not only as good, but very good. This work included day, night, Heaven, Earth, plants, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He added life to water and sky, creatures to land, and a touch of souls, minds and hearts.

Our Maker set us up for beautiful living but someone darker slithered in with a terrible lie and made it pretty enough to distract us from living forever and settle for a time to die. You and I are here for reasons that are set apart to lead us into one most high pleasure. It'll be a time of rest from all that wasn't meant to be in this habitation only God can measure.

What has happened to that holy neighborhood?
Generations have tried discoloring it with sin.
Yet, Jesus showed up to remind us all to hold fast to why He came unto the very end.
He has made us to be partakers of a heavenly calling; to hear God with a soft heart.
If we don't believe a time is set aside for holy rest, then that place won't be our ends to His start.

Christ has brought us the only good news that no bad news can keep from coming to pass.
Take a look at what's going on around us: this world we live in is deteriorating fast.
Give in to God and not flesh, pain, evil, sin, death or its sorrow – He is who is in control.
Trust yourself in His hand, follow Him in Christ, and you shall find this beautiful rest for your soul.

By Cedric A. Christian

[Genesis 1:31/3:1-11; James 1:17-18; Revelation 4:11/21:1-7; Mark 8:34-35; Philippians 3:8-15; Hebrews 4:1-11; Luke 21:33-36; Matthew 11:27-30]

Luke, chapter ten, starting at verse thirty-eight:

Luke 10:38-40 *Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.*

I can just see a pause in Jesus' teaching.

Luke 10:41-42 *And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

Come and learn of me. Come and learn of me. Sit at my feet. Nothing that I give you can be taken away from you. Our work brings us worry, and doubt, and anxiety, and stress, and fear, depression, and all those things, but when we take on the yoke of Christ we bear the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, against such there is no law. We have to sometimes go boldly to that throne of grace and find help in time of need. But, we go, sometimes, to all these other devices. The world tells us to go, "Oh, just go sit and watch the news, or go sit and watch all these talking heads, or go watch a movie to relax and unwind." And all along He says, "I'm here. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me." Chris and myself were discussing this on Friday night at Men's prayer, about, before we had the grace of God in our lives, our souls couldn't find that rest. And, he, even gave kind of a description to me, about how he would see himself in so much anguish that his teeth were like knocking together, strained. And, then, when he came to get saved later, he saw that there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. His soul was just in so much anguish, and so much torment, it was almost like being in a hell on Earth.

All these fears, doubt, and depression, sometimes leads people to suicide, because they think they have no hope. That's why suicide rate is going up so high, especially teenagers, and Veterans, and different things like that, different groups of people. Because they feel like, maybe, the government is going to give them help, but they can't give them help. They feel like their family is going to give them help, but they can't give them help. Only God. God's grace will lighten their load, make it easier to cope, gives us rest to our souls.

And, Paul, again, in his letter to the church at Corinth says; in First Corinthians, chapter fifteen, verse ten, said:

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

God wants to make your load a lot lighter. He wants to make it lighter. Stop trying to be religious and take the load on yourself. Stop trying to do what man tells you to do; do what God is trying to put in your life. Don't hide and sit on those talents like those sisters were sharing. Let your light shine. Have you ever just prayed for wisdom in a situation? Or you had such a heavy burden at work, and all of the sudden, that load was just lifted? He's there. He's willing to help. We've just got to go to Him.

Part 2: The Way to That Rest

The way to this rest. Jeremiah, chapter six, verse sixteen:

Jeremiah 6:16 *Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

God has always provided a way for rest to souls, but they said, “We’re not going to do that; that can't be right.” Sometimes, like that child that doesn't want to take a nap, we don't want to take God's rest. We don't want to receive God's Grace in our lives. Just think, He wants to give it to us, we just choose not to, sometimes.

Isaiah 28:9-12 *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [Learn of me, learn of me] them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: for with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*

All the time, God is trying to bring us to this rest, bring us in like children that are lost, like sheep that are lost, trying to bring us into his bosom and give us rest. “Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me. Learn of Me.” That is the rest, learning of God. Just sitting, and listening, and learning to God, and then going out and doing what He tells you to do. Obedience.

John, chapter fourteen—We can't get to that great rest on our own; only God can give rest to us. Jesus is saying here:

John 14:1-4 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

The way to the rest—He didn't just leave us hanging after He left the Earth. He came back to show us the way. He says we're going to know the way. Without a doubt, we're going to know that it's Him that showing us the way. He wouldn't have told us. There is a way to that rest. Jesus is the way the truth and the life.

Galatians, chapter three, starting at verse twenty-six:

Galatians 3:26-27 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

That's where you first put on the Grace, the yoke of God in your life, is in the obedience to the Gospel.

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Sisters, you are of value, and you are important. You all have your part. It doesn't matter if you're male or female, everybody has a part. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Heirs according to that rest. Many people say, well, baptism is a work. It's not a work; baptism is an obedience. It's obeying what God tells us to do. Putting into action, taking that yoke upon us. Many of you, sometimes, are wrestling with that. You've been here a long time, struggling with whether or not you should get baptized. Put that to rest. Learn of God, take His yoke upon you. Let today be the day of salvation. Let today you find rest to your souls. Stop anguishing where you don't need to anguish in the things. And stop worrying about the things of this life, and putting off your own soul's salvation. You don't have to wander about in the wilderness anymore, there is a place of rest where God wants you to come to; come there today. You have to put away that old man. You don't need to live with that sin anymore, you don't need to live with that doubt anymore, you don't need to live with that fear anymore. "Take my yoke upon you, learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart." He's begging us, all through the Scriptures, He's begging us to learn, to just sit and "learn of Me," just learn. Will you find rest for your weary soul? Will you listen to Him today?

Part 3: Refreshing and Revival

Parrish talked a lot about how you don't have to wait 'til Sunday to come to church to get your Revival. Anytime of the day or the week. That really inspired me a lot, too, because I've, you know, kind of been going through some challenging times in my life, and, so, I've been set on my knees more, and praying, and seeking God more, and worshiping more. And, I'll tell you what, I feel alive, and recharged like never before, you know? You ever start going through life, and situations in life, things that are burdens in my life, but, the Revival of God is so refreshing, it's like a cold drink of water in a hot dry desert sometimes, you know? Isaiah, let's go to our last Scripture. As Andy prepares to come up and wrap us up. Isaiah chapter forty verses twenty-five through thirty-one:

Isaiah 40:25-28 *To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [So God doesn't get tired; He's not weary] there is no searching of his understanding.*

"Learn of Me." You've got to learn from Him. You can study the Bible your whole life, and not come to the knowledge of the Truth. You've got to learn of Him. I know when someone first shared with me, baptism, I said, I've already been baptized a few times. I don't need to get baptized again. But I didn't take the time to learn of Him. When someone gave me those Scriptures and I went home—Joe, you were there in Norfolk at that time when I got baptized, a few years back—and in the middle the night, God woke me up, and said, "You're not saved. You're not a new creature. You need to get baptized. You need to get born again. Learn of Me." Back to verse twenty-nine:

Isaiah 40:29-31 *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. [This is for us that have been around, the faithful. He's going to give you more strength. He's going to*

give you Revival; he's going to increase your strength.] *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Why? Because we have the rest of God, we have Revival in our life. We have the Spirit of the Living God in our life, we have the rest, the yoke upon us, in our life. We're not going to get weary; we're not going to give up. We're going to wait on God. We're going to give that time to Him, and learn from Him. We're going to take that, and let our light shine. God bless you.