

"Jesus Is Enough"

Last month we made a solid case to testify that God's witness upon the human life trusting that Jesus is enough to live to the praise of His glory is the witness of rest. (Mostly from Hebrews 3 and 4.) Let's continue that idea by looking at Jesus' promise in Matthew 11:28-30. In this passage Jesus simply tells us "You will find the rest you were made for in My saving Life alone!" Keep the context of this passage in mind. Matthew 11:25 finds Jesus saying that the revelatory witness of rest is for "babes" (infants!) – those who recognize their personal insufficiency apart from God's sufficiency; those who know their human weaknesses call for Divine strength; those willing to embrace the fact of limited human knowledge as an escort into God's omniscience and wisdom.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus issues a clear invitation and an even clearer promise. First the invitation: "Come!" The invitation is wide open to any and all who are weary, burdened, tired of their restlessness. Those who are bending beneath the strain of both trying to please other people or even (especially!) trying to please God. "Come to Me!", He says. Meaning what? "You've gone to 'them' – the practices, the places, the professionals, the principles, the propositions, the programs." Laws, rules, methods, systems – irreligious or religious – do not calm the frustrated, fatigued, failing soul. Jesus is essentially saying, "This is not what you were made for, therefore, they must fail you." The impersonal always does!

His promise? "Come to Me, and I will rest you!" The "I" is not only emphatic, It is causative and personal – "I will cause you to be rested." New Covenant rest is always about loyalty to and intimacy with a Person, not a practice or a place. When He says, "Take My Yoke upon you", you must ask, "Who is Jesus yoked to?" He is no independent actor, no self-generating holy man, no self-sufficient hero. He is yoked to His Father. He is inviting us into the covenant oneness that the Father and the Son have together. "Come to Me... take My yoke... and We will bring you into our fearless, indivisible, sufficient Life. Then you will find the 'rest' you are looking for." In that arrangement, we share in the life God shares with God – the rest of fearless love. Yoked to him, we go nowhere He isn't – the rest of indivisible oneness. Nothing I face is ever again against me that isn't against Him – the rest of adequacy and sufficiency.

Jesus was saying to the people of His day and to us, "Do you want a place, a practice for rest? I AM!" This is the yoke that is well-fitting, "easy"... custom made for all God's children. This is the burden that is "light"... Someone is carrying it together with us. Herein we find the witness of God's rest upon the human life who is learning to live in a receptive and responsive union with Christ.



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Greetings

A bit of "housekeeping" this month if you don't mind. We heard from some of you last month that you did not receive our April newsletter - especially those receiving it through the US mail. Sorry for that. You can always find a copy on our message website, or, you can contact us via phone, text, or email (see front page) and we'll be glad to send you another.

We are considering going to an all email format in 2026. I know, it's not my preference either - give me a real newspaper, book, or snail mail letter any day. But with paper costs, bulk mailing fees, and postage rising rapidly in the past few years, and, the increasing unreliability of the postal system, we're leaning toward the change. We'd be glad to hear from you concerning your thoughts, suggestions, etc. No sudden changes in store - but you may need time to find a grandchild or neighborhood kid who will print out a hard copy for you each month!

We consider every one of you precious assets in God's kingdom and valuable encouragers and partners for all we do. We don't want anyone to be "left out" of the journey together. But from a stewardship perspective we are currently rethinking the 35+ year old model we've been using. For example, our paper folding machine broke down 4 years ago and parts could not be found. Ella has been hand-folding hundreds of

copies each month to meet Postal Service requirements. Paper costs have quadrupled while mailing fees have tripled. We want to be wise and to be considerate of you as well. Let us know your thoughts in the days to come!

Calendar



MAY



- 13 Alachua Study
- 17-21 Pope Drive Baptist, Anderson, SC
(864-226-1789)
- 27 Ocala Study

JULY

- 18-20 Waymart, PA

Praise & Prayer

-  The sufficiency of Christ for every genuine need
-  Faithful sojourners and encouragers

-  For frustration and fatigue to do their intended work
– to call the church into God's intended rest
-  For wisdom from above to manage all our God-given resources to His glory and the good of others