

## WHOM DO YOU SERVE? (2)

By Keith Greer

**Yoke of Christ.** “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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” {Matthew 11:28-30}

Christ’s yoke has a much greater up side. Still, it does not mean that God’s children will not have any problems along the way. But they will be manageable problems, and our faith can remain strong. Consider the attitude exhibited by Paul in Acts 27:23: “For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve.” Commitment and dedication must come from us. Consider some things Christ’s yoke offers us...

**Hope of Heaven.** “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” {Colossians 3:1,2} “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” {Revelation 21:3,4} Heaven is prepared by God for people who are prepared to live there. It’s a place about which we can only think and dream, because nothing on earth compares to it. Obedient faith can make heaven more than a dream—it will one day be a reality that lasts throughout eternity.

**Law of Liberty.** “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” {Galatians 5:13} “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” {James 1:25} This is real liberty, not the false liberty offered by Satan. Such liberty exists only with Christ. The one who truly throws off the yoke of bondage will have a deeper appreciation for the liberty we have in Christ. Yet, as free people, we need to remember the price paid for our freedom—Christ’s death on the cross. This should motivate us to devote our lives to loving faithful service to Him in thanksgiving for His rich blessings. “As free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.” {1 Peter 2:16}

**Sanctification.** “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” {1 Corinthians 6:11} Finally, we are no longer wallowing around in the degrading degeneracy of our sinful lives. We now live set apart to do service for our King and Master—Jesus Christ. Paul encouraged the Ephesian elders by saying, “...I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” {Acts 20:32}. We achieve sanctification by being yoked to Christ.

Every one of us must make a choice to whom we will yoke ourselves. No place of neutrality for one to run and hide. Pressure and encouragement will be administered by many folks seeking to push us one way or the other. Yet, the final decision must be made by each individual. Take a hard look at these two choices. Don't be fooled by false offers that our adversary places before us; he cannot deliver on any of them. The opposite is true of Christ—He will keep all of His promises. There are benefits in this life and in the one to come! One can be trusted and the other is a lie. Questions anyone?

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