



HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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REST IN A TIRED WORLD

This is truly a tired world in which we live. All are faced with the problems of everyday life. Many get so tired of their jobs we feel "we can't work at that place another day." We get so tired of the repetition in our lives. One house wife put it this way, "I do the same thing day in and day out. I clean the house, get my husband off to work, the kids off to school, the same thing every day. I am so tired." Yes, this is a tired world. So many are tired of the burden of sin that faces us every day. We grow tired of living, but because of sin, we are afraid to die! We ask ourselves, "Is there rest to be found?" I have

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good news for you! Jesus said in Matt. 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."

The first century was much like today. People then were burdened with sin also. They too were afraid to die. We see in the church, people who live their lives filled with fear, burden and worry. It reminds us of a small child entering a room of adults. The child is wearing a smile as broad as he is long, not a care in the world. Then he looks around and sees all the worried faces of the adults. Don't you think the child wonders about these adults sometimes? And the adults look at the child, and his wonderful smile that seems to say everything is alright and they say, "He is just too young to realize." Yes, we say the child is too young to realize all the trouble. The cry of most adults is, "He will understand someday." If this description fits you, please read on.

The apostles of the early church answered the call of Jesus, a call that offered rest for those who "labour" and are "heavy laden". After answering that call, they found persecution, scourging, stonings and beatings. They found imprisonment and demands never to preach Jesus. They answered the call and found all this. They also found something so precious they would give their lives if necessary. Yes, they found an inner peace that was so valuable they wouldn't take a million dollars for it. They found a rest that was more comforting and refreshing than a night's sleep on a warm feather bed during a zero night. Who are we to question these men? Their lives speak for themselves. They knew!

Someone says, "Jesus was here then. They could actually see Him and talk with Him." Jesus is here now and can still be seen with the eye of faith. We can still have blessed communion with Him through prayer and the reading and meditating of His word. Once I wondered what Jesus would have said to me had I lived in the days He was made flesh and dwelt among us bodily. What would we have talked about as we walked together? But my question has changed. I ask, What is He saying to me today? What does He think of me? What does He expect of me right now? Am I allowing my body to be the *"temple of the Holy Ghost"*? Am I truly in His will? Or are my desires self-centered? When I read my Bible with these questions in mind, pray with these thoughts, what a difference it makes! Weary person, Jesus is still here, still calling, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* We must answer His call today for we so desperately need His rest.

How does Jesus give rest? Primarily by His love and sympathy. Consider a man who has been wounded in some way at his job. He has had a bad day. When he comes home to his wife he can find rest there in the arms of his loving mate. She may advise, she may question, she may even criticize, but if she is the right kind of wife, she will first listen: listen with tender love and sympathy. And as the man pours out his burdens to a loving heart, and a tender and sympathetic ear, already his hurt begins to heal, already a wonderful comfort begins to come over him. A financial expert might give him better advice, a psychiatrist might better tell him what is wrong with him. But here in his home he finds a rest and comfort that is offered no where else, much the same way the soul-weary turn to Christ. They seek His presence and pour out their hearts unto Him in secret prayer. There they find a great peace,

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a wonderful rest. Their souls rest. They can pick up the book of books and read of a wonderful Jesus, one who was rich without the world's wealth. Thus, they are reminded the wealth and personal prestige they sought are not really essential to soul's greatness. They can see they permitted themselves to be hurt by things that are not so wonderful and important after all. They can read of a place called heaven, a place where heartaches will be no more. And yes, they find rest unto their souls. Through blessed communion with Christ we find rest.

You may say, "I am tired, but worse than that I have sinned; I am unclean. I am wrong. What about me? How can I find rest?" Here the wonderful Jesus is at His best! Oh, wonderful Jesus with His nail scarred hands and His crown of thorns cries unto you, *"Come unto me, and I will give you rest"*. Jesus tells us *"though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"* (Isa. 1:18). Jesus calls us to perfect cleansing. This is the wonderful invitation of the crucified Christ. *"The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* (Rev. 22:17)

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FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

ABOUT RELIGIOUS ZEAL

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods; (Josh. 24:15,16)

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about. (2 Chr. 15:15)

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? (Psa. 42:1, 2)

My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. (Psa. 119:139)

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. (Luke 22:32,33)

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (Rom. 7:22)

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. (1 Cor. 14:12)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear,

yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge.' In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. (2 Cor. 7:11)

But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. (Gal. 4:18)

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Tit. 2:14)

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

THE MODEL CHURCH

Worship - A model church is necessarily a converted church. Its members have 'put off the old man.' They are in Christ, and are, therefore, new creatures. Their affections are on spiritual things - things above - and not on fleshly, worldly, sensual things; and, of course, therefore, they enjoy spiritual food, spiritual surroundings, more than Sunday dinners, Sunday newspapers, Sunday baseball, or Sunday picture shows; for all such things are connected with sensual practices even if they are not sensual per se.

Worship is a natural expression of a consecrated soul. He who does not enjoy things spiritual is carnal minded; hence, is in a state of death, is not a Christian, and cannot be saved unless he repents and is convicted.

When the members of a model church assemble, they come into the worship with reverence. They come with one purpose, with one mind - their minds are all together on one thought. They come with devout hearts. They are all there when the worship begins, and they always take part. They all worship. They all

participate in the singing. Those who cannot sing follow the words of the hymn (for, of course, a model church will have hymn books enough for every person present), and listen to the melody, and try to worship with grace in their hearts. All the members engage in the prayers and say "Amen" at the close, either audibly or in the heart. The worship is always orderly, systematic, and solemn. There is no confusion, no distractions, and no unseemly commotions; for there are no idle minds present. Every one is worshipping; every one is full of God. God is in the midst, and all are filled with awe. There is an atmosphere of calm, of quiet, of peace and reverence; for we are now living in the age *"when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshipers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:23,24). -- SELECTED

submitted by J.O. Holmes

AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

One of the grandest blessings of being a member of the Lord's church is spending time and fellowship with other Christians. When we surround ourselves thusly, we also find it easier to avoid sin. Being among the right people can be a big difference. Our adversary, the devil, knows this. He rarely tempts Christians when they are in a group because they are able to draw strength and encouragement from one another. Remember how Satan tempted Jesus in Matthew 4, at a time when it seemed that Christ was alone and vulnerable? And just as a lion will chase the stray antelope rather than the rest of the herd, Satan will try to tempt us most when we are away from the "house of God"!

(continued from page 7)

What happens when we are missing the church services? What are we doing instead? Some may be preaching the Truth to lost souls or others may be doing some form of good work. That is commendable. But what about the rest of us? What are we doing when we neglect the church services? Are we home watching some TV program display all the sensual lewdness and violence that a mind can stand? Are we at the ball game watching our children play and thus letting them know that we care more about sports than religious matters? Are we in a place where we don't belong, where we will be tempted to do wrong?

These are just a few examples of things to think about next time we decide to "*forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is*". If Christ is truly our Shepherd and we are His followers, then we should be found with the rest of the flock -- yes, even on Sunday nights!

RAY

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THIRD SUNDAY SINGINGS, 3:30 P.M.

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