

John 15:1-12

- Quick Summary on Abide in Christ
- Christ's invitation to "Come unto Me" means also to Abide in Christ
- Full blessedness at coming to Christ continues by "Abiding in Christ"
- Secret of Abiding in Christ? TIME for Jesus
- Abiding in Christ needs continual practise
- Fix our minds on truth and take action!
- Let us repeat to make this practice a part of us



- Practising Abiding in Christ
- John 15:4-5, John 6:63 (Spirit & Life) and 2 Cor 4:13 (Speak)
  - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing
  - Picture in mind: Jesus as the vine, and me as the branch
  - Repeat verbally: Jesus, you are the vine, I am the branch. Without You, I can do nothing. Now let the river of life flow from You to me to bear
    - Fruit (fill in the blank) eg love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, ...etc



#### You shall find rest for your souls

- Come to Me, ...and I will give you rest"
- Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me,...and you will find rest for your souls
- Matt 11:28-30

#### The Need for Rest

- Since man's fall, it's been toil and heavy laden
- Gen 3:16-19 "...greatly multiply your sorrow...,...in toil you shall eat,...,in the sweat of you face you shall eat bread...."



#### Rest in Creation Genesis 1:1 to 2:3

- V1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
- v2 Some unknown event happened, and there was chaos throughout the earth
- Day 1 to 3; God restored order via <u>creation of separaton</u> viz,
  - Day 1 Light (Day) vs Darkness (Night); v3-5
  - Day 2 Sky vs Waters; v6-8
  - Day 3 Land vs Sea; v9-10
- Day 3 to 6; Creation
  - Day 3 Vegetation; v11-13
  - Day 4 Sun, Moon, Stars v14-19
  - Day 5 Birds and Marine life; v20-23





- Rest in Creation Genesis 1:1 to 2:3 (Cont'd)
  - Day 3 to 6; Creation (Cont'd)
    - Day 6 Land animals and creatures; v24-25
    - Day 6 Man; v26-31
  - Day 7 God rested and Man's first day of existence is a day of rest!
- Can we agree man is designed with need of REST?
- Can we agree that <u>REST</u> is an important need?



#### Our Saviour's Invitation and Promise

- Come unto Me, and I will give you rest
- Promised rest to every soul who comes to Him

#### What is this rest?

- Peace and security Man had God-given authority. Total order and free from fear,
- Provision All our wants provided
- Fulfillment Our desires met
- Progressive restoration of all that was God given and lost in the Garden of Eden





- Everyone that comes to Jesus receives this promised rest
  - You <u>will receive</u> rest
- Where the truth hidden from many is revealed next!
  - You will <u>find rest</u> for your souls
- What's the difference?
  - Fishing analogy st
  - 1 instance is equivalent to being given the fish and being fed
  - instance is equivalent to having learnt the art of fishing for fish and being fed
  - Jesus wants us not only to receive rest <u>but</u> to learn art of finding rest





## What is the <u>Hidden Truth of Finding</u> Continual Rest?

- Take My yoke upon you
- Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart

## Take My yoke upon you

- Our voluntary surrender of all to Jesus
- Farming analogy
- Yoked animals are under the discretion and direction of the farmer
- Farmer provides and care for his working animals



### Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart

- Learn of Me: Be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Meek: "Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth" Matt 5:5
- Lowly in heart: "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" Matt 5:3
- "Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble" Prov 3:34
- "...God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" James 4:6
- THE PROMISE: You inherit the earth and the Kingdom of Heaven!

## Receiving vs Finding

- Receive rest upon coming at His invitation
- Find rest when you voluntarily take His yoke and submit to His Lordship and learn of Him



### Why do we struggle to voluntarily surrender?

- Lack of faith in God and His Character through deception
- Example of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3
- Why did created perfect Adam and Eve disobey God and chose independence from God
- Deceived by Satan to look at their God-given carnal desires and think God will deprive them
- The very antithesis (direct opposite) of God's plan and actions
- Satan slandered God's Character and Adam and Eve believed the lie and doubted God
- Will we fall into the same trap?

#### God Forbid!!!!





- What God bestow needs TIME to become fully our own. It must be
  - Held fast
  - Appropriated ie apply to our lives
  - Assimilated into our inner being and become part of us
- Thus we will start by putting into practise as in 2 Cor 4:13
  - Having the same spirit of faith according to what is written
  - "I believed and therefore I spoke"
  - We also believe and therefore speak!

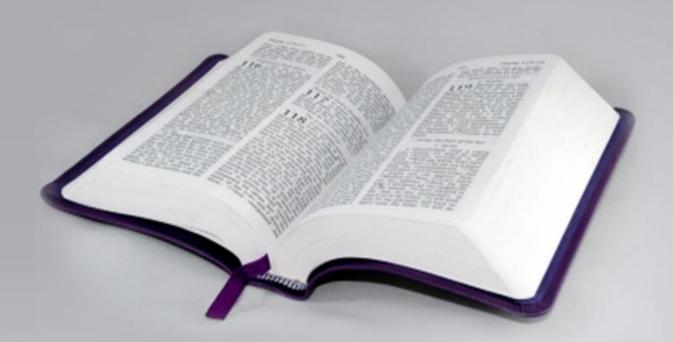


#### By His Grace, our response is

- Forgive me the sin of believing Satan's lies slandering You, Gracious God
- I surrender all to You, Jesus, and I willingly take Your yoke upon me
- I now learn of Jesus to be meek and humble in heart
- And acknowledge I need You always in my life. I abide in You, Jesus"
- I now forget those things which are behind and reaching for those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize to Abide in Christ Jesus. AMEN. Phil 3:13
- Praise and thank God, we find perfect rest for our souls!
  AMEN







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