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## Daily Devotional - Monday, July 16, 2018 - Let Christ Bear Your Burdens

JULY 16TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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### Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus' compassion is displayed repeatedly throughout the Gospel accounts, and in today's passage, He shows loving concern by inviting us to come to Him for relief. Is there anything more needed in this world than the feeling of being set free from whatever is weighing us down?

Jesus invites us to come, take His yoke upon us, and learn from Him. At first glance, a yoke may sound like an additional burden, but to understand what Jesus means, we must look at these verses from their historical context. A yoke was a bar that fit over the neck and shoulders of two animals. When a heavy load had to be transported, two oxen were yoked together, thereby distributing the weight evenly between them.

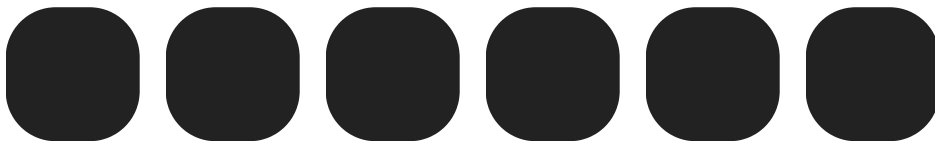
What our Lord is describing is a lifelong process that encompasses coming to Him for salvation and learning to know Him—His perfect character, His priorities for life, and His plans for us and the world. Jesus is asking us to place ourselves under the yoke of His lordship. He promises that a life of submission will fit us well and provide relief.

Our Savior offers to be with us in every trial we face. Sometimes He removes the difficulties that weigh us down, while at other times, He lifts the burdensome feelings that accompany our trials. But there will be occasions when He walks with us through the hardships and suffering, giving us the grace and strength to endure. Even then we will discover that His yoke is easy and His burden is light because His compassion and mighty power carry us through.

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## Daily Devotional - Friday, July 13, 2018 - What Christ's Blood Does for Believers

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## Romans 3:21-26

Knowing what we believe is key to a life-sustaining faith. Yesterday we saw two of the blessings that are ours through the blood of the Savior. Today we will look at two more.

By trusting in Christ as Savior, we are ...

**Justified.** Justification is the process by which God sees us as not guilty— just as if we had not committed any wrong. Romans 3:23 condemns all mankind as sinners who are under a sentence of death and facing a dreadful eternity apart from God and His blessings. But everything changes for the person who accepts Christ's shed blood as payment for his or her sins—through Jesus, that sinner is declared “not guilty” and is provided with Christ's righteousness. And the new believer is adopted into God's own family (Gal. 3:26). Jesus' sacrifice has satisfied our sin debt, and His death is counted by God as our own (Rom. 5:9).

**Reconciled.** Before salvation, we were separated from the Lord and spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1). We had no way to span the gap between Him and us. Christ sent His Holy Spirit to convict us of our guilt (John 16:8), make us aware that we need a Savior, and bring us to saving faith. Jesus, the Lamb of God, removed the barrier of sin that separated us from God. Christ died to reconcile us to God, “having made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col. 1:20).

As believers, we should understand what occurred when we received Jesus as Savior. Through His sacrifice, we are redeemed, forgiven, justified, and reconciled to God. That is, Christ's blood has brought us from death to life—and has let us enter into an eternal relationship with the Father.

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## Daily Devotional - Thursday, July 12, 2018 - The Shed Blood of Jesus

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JULY 12TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, July 12, 2018 - The Shed Blood of Jesus

### John 1:29-34

When John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching, he declared Christ to be the Lamb of God.

This concept was familiar to the Israelites, since their law required blood offerings as atonement for sin (Lev. 17:11). Jesus became our sacrificial Lamb, paying once for all the sin debt owed by mankind (1 Peter 3:18). His death secured forgiveness and eternal life for everyone who trusts Him as Savior. With regard to salvation, nothing else is required or acceptable to God.

Jesus was the one who set things right between the Father and man. He died to bring us ...

**Redemption.** This was a word that was used to describe a marketplace transaction—one that buys back something of value. All humanity was in bondage to sin and unable to pay the penalty (Rom. 6:23). As our sacrificial lamb, Jesus willingly died in our place and with His blood, redeemed us for His Father (1 Peter 1:18-19).

**Forgiveness.** As God's adopted children, we have been saved by the blood of Christ and pardoned for our transgressions. The penalty for our actions has been fully paid. So at the moment of salvation, guilt for all of our sins—past, present, and future—is wiped away.

Meditate on what the Savior did at Calvary. As the sacrificial Lamb, Jesus exchanged His life for ours and gave it up to pay what we owed. His death redeemed us, secured our forgiveness, and gave us a permanent place in God's family. *Thank You, Jesus, for bringing redemption!*

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## Daily Devotional - Wednesday, July 11, 2018 - When God Doesn't Seem Just

JULY 11TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Can you think of a situation in your life that felt like an exception to the promises of Scripture? In today's passage, Moses declares that the Lord is faithful and all His ways are just, but we have all been in circumstances that seemed wrong and unfair. And because God did not intervene, we've struggled to reconcile our experience with Moses' statement about Him.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of godly people who faced hardships that seemed totally unfair. For example, Joseph was sold as a slave, David was hunted by King Saul, and Paul suffered with a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Situations like these can cause us to question whether God is good and just. If left to fester in our minds, these doubts may give way to discouragement. We can easily start thinking, *What's the use of serving the Lord? Look at what it's gotten me—suffering!*

It's important to remember that what we know about God from His Word is more accurate than what we feel. Scripture tells us that God is good and just, so we can know with certainty that He has a fantastic purpose for us in whatever we experience.

The Lord allows each of us to face some trials that we won't understand to our satisfaction this side of heaven. Our job is not to comprehend everything He does and permits in our lives, but to know how to respond. He'll make all things right in eternity. In the meantime, trust the solid Rock when all else is shaky.

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## Daily Devotional - Tuesday, July 10, 2018 - The Coming Judgment

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JULY 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, July 10, 2018 - The Coming Judgment

### Acts 10:42-43

Have you ever been required to appear in court before a judge? Even if your only offense was a parking or speeding ticket, the courtroom experience can be very intimidating. Your wrong cannot be undone, and you must give an account for your actions and accept whatever consequences the judge decrees.

There will come a day when every human being will be required to stand before the Judge of the universe. At that point, there's no turning back, no chance to start over. We will each be held accountable by almighty God for our choices and actions in this life.

If you've trusted in Jesus, you will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). This isn't a judgment of your sins, because they were judged when God's wrath was poured out on His Son at Calvary. Since the Savior has already secured your eternal destiny, you will stand before God, clothed in Christ's righteousness. The purpose of this judgment is evaluation of your works to determine if they are worthless or deserving of a reward.

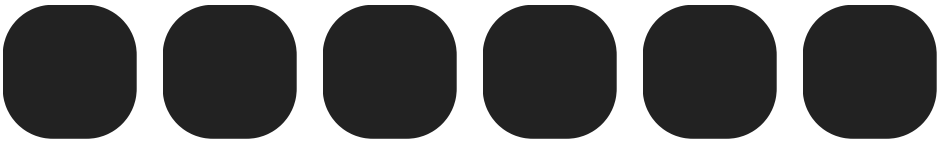
The Great White Throne Judgment is reserved for people who have rejected Jesus as Savior ( Revelation 20:11-15). The works they have done will be evaluated according to God’s record books. Since their names are not written in the book of life, their eternal destination will be the lake of fire.

Although no one can avoid being judged, the good news is that you have a choice regarding which judgment seat you will appear before. But the only time you can make that choice is in this lifetime. Once your earthly life ends, your destiny is set.

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