

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: **51**
Contribution: \$ 2436.00
Weekly Budget: \$ **2854.00**

Thought for The Day

"When we are unable to find tranquility within ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere."

ROCHEFOUCAULD

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Delbert Leavens
Songs: Tim Simmons
Sermon: Ted Wheeler
Closing Prayer: Kerry Keathley

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell
Songs: Tim Simmons
Sermon: Song Service
Closing Prayer: Ted Wheeler

COMMUNION

Marty Wingo Joe Austin
Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

August 26, 2007

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His Yoke is Easy ... His Burden is Light

It is ironic to consider that Jesus required more than the legalistic Pharisees and yet his way was easier. How could this be? The Pharisees required the performance of certain things without giving consideration to whether these external actions were motivated by hearts given over to God. They were more concerned with external actions than they were with the inner attitude of the heart.

Jesus required more than external actions. He required that these external actions be motivated by changed hearts. Paradoxically, this requires more, but is easier. It is not an oppressive and burdensome thing.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

Why are his commandments not burdensome? Because we obey them in love. A song from a few years ago entitled *"HE AIN'T HEAVY; HE'S MY*

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a nursery available at the rear of the auditorium. Bible classes for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders
Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister
Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services
Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study-6:30 pm.

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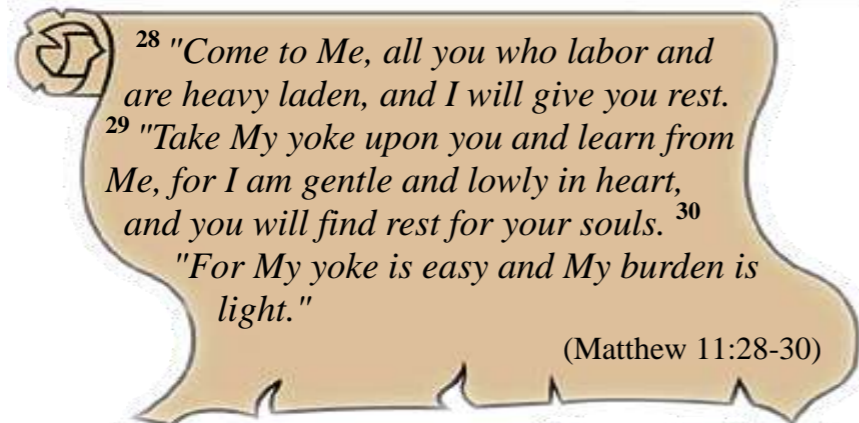


BROTHER", comes near to expressing the thought. I've got to carry my fallen brother, but it doesn't seem like such a burden because of the relationship we have. If I were given the choice of carrying around a 10 pound sack of potatoes or my 30 pound son through an amusement park for 6 hours, I would surely choose my son. Although he is heavier and demands more care and attention, he seems lighter because of my love and affection for him.

When we serve Christ out of a sense of legalistic duty, we torment our consciences. But when we serve him out of a "*faith that worketh by love*" (Galatians 5:6), we enjoy the service. The problem of the Pharisees was that they trusted in themselves and not in God. This is precisely what led Christ to give the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14). Our righteousness must look beyond the self-righteousness of the Pharisees if we are going to enter the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20).

God requires service out of faith and heartfelt motivation and not out of meritorious works alone (Deuteronomy 30:12-14; Matthew 22:37; Luke 11:39-52). The Jews had perverted faith and served the law out of works only. Not only will "*faith only*" not save; neither will works only. Micah 6:6-8 demonstrates that God requires more than external works of obedience. Works only brings death (Galatians 3:12). To live by faith, obedient faith, brings rest and life. Truly, his yoke is easy and his burden is light because we love him so (Matthew 11:28-30).

B.J. Clarke



ARE YOU A SLEEPER?



Do your eyelids become heavy when the song service is concluded and the preacher steps into the pulpit? We often joke about those who "doze off" during worship. I realize some take medication or have physical problems that make it virtually impossible to stay awake, even though they try. The rest who sleep for whatever reason will have to take it up with the Lord in the Judgment.

There are other kinds of "sleeping," though, that may reflect a more serious problem than this. One of these is what some call sleeping in, that is, sleeping so late on Sunday morning that they miss the worship altogether! I have more respect for the one who "fades out" during the worship service than the one who puts forth no effort to be there. Such absence is a slap in the face of Jesus!

Another form of sleeping is being asleep to duty. The one who suffers from this problem feels that every directive the Lord gave regarding duty is aimed at someone else! "He's not talking to me" is the philosophy. This Christian fails to realize that every saint is "created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Ephesians 2:10).

Then there is sleeping on the job. Have you ever been asked to undertake an assignment by the elders, only to drag your feet or abandon the job altogether? Churches grow weak and die when members have so little interest in the Lord's work that they simply neglect the things Christ has told us to do.

Finally, disciples may be asleep to danger. Christ urges us to be "vigilant," that is, watchful, at all times. Elders are commissioned to watch for the souls of the members under their charge (Hebrews 13; Acts 20). Preachers are reminded of the necessity of watching their doctrine or teaching, as well as their lives (1 Timothy 4). All Christians are to be alert to these same dangers as they concern the individual and those about him. Closing our eyes, going to sleep, will not cause the danger to disappear.

Friends, are you a "sleeper" - one of the types mentioned above, or some other kind? There is a sleep that is good for us, and other kinds that are not! We need to know the difference.

Remember in Prayer

VALERIE FINLEY
BENNIE HOUSE
BUDDY WARD
CARL CHAMBERS
NITA BRAGA
PATRICIA SMITH
FRANCIE LEAVENS
DORIS WHITE
CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
FRANK SMALL
IVA & LEM TURNER
PATRICIA FORD
JEANETTE THOMPSON

TODAY'S SERMONS

Integrity—Have It
Acts 1: 1-11
Song Service

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Aug 26: Song Service @ 6:00 pm
- ✓ Sep 2: Fellowship Meal @ noon
- ✓ Sep 30: Song Service @ 6:00 pm
- ✓ Oct 18: Booster Banquet @ Florida School of Preaching