

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
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ARE YOU WEARY?

" . . . I will give you rest. "

J. C. Ryle

I believe there are countless men and women in the world who know nothing about inward rest and peace. They travel on to the grave with a weary heart and a heavy conscience. They are weary, very weary, about their souls. Perhaps the reader of this paper is one of these people.

I am firmly persuaded that there are thousands of men and women in the world who are inwardly uncomfortable, and yet will not confess it. They feel a burden on their hearts, which they would gladly get rid of, and yet they do not know the way. They have a conviction that all is not right in their inward man, which they never tell to anyone.

Husbands do not tell it to their wives, and wives do not tell it to their husbands; children do not tell it to their parents, and friends do not tell it to their friends; but the inward burden lies heavily on many hearts! There is far more secret unhappiness than the world sees. Disguise it as some will, there are multitudes uncomfortable because they know they are not prepared to meet God; and you who are reading this paper may be one of them.

Now, if you are one of the heavy-laden and weary, you are the very person to whom the Lord Jesus Christ sends an invitation by my hand this day. If you have an aching heart, and a sore conscience -- if you want rest for a weary soul, and know not where to find it -- if you want peace for a guilty heart, and are at a loss which way to turn -- you are the man, you are the woman, to whom Jesus speaks today. There is hope for you, however weary you may feel, I bring you good tidings. Jesus said, Matthew 11 :28, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* "

Believe me, there is only one place where rest for a weary soul can be found. Governments cannot give it; education will not impart it; worldly amusements cannot supply it; money will not purchase it. It can only be found in the hand of Jesus Christ; and to His hand you must turn, if you would find peace within.

There is no royal road to rest of soul. Let that never be forgotten. There is only one way to the Father -- Jesus Christ; one door into heaven-- Jesus Christ; and one path to heart peace -- Jesus Christ. By that way all laboring and heavy-laden ones must go, whatever be their rank or condition. Kings in their palaces, and paupers in the workhouse, are all on the same level in this matter. All alike must come to Christ, if they feel soul-weary and athirst. All must drink of the same fountain, if they would have their thirst relieved.

You may not believe what I am now writing. Time will show who is right and who is wrong. Go on, if you will, imagining that true happiness is to be found in the good things of this world. Seek it, if you will, in reveling and banqueting, in dancing and merry-making, in races and theaters, in field sports and cards. Seek it, if you will, in reading and scientific pursuits, in music and painting, in politics and business. Seek it: but you will never overtake it, unless you change your plan. Real heart-rest is never to be found except in heartunion with Jesus Christ.

The Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, lies buried in Newport Church, in the Isle of Wight. A marble monument records in a touching way the manner of her death. She languished in Carisbrook Castle during the unhappy wars, a prisoner, alone, and separate from all the companions of her youth, until death

set her free. She was found dead one day with her head leaning on her Bible, and the Bible open at the words in Matthew 11 :28, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" The monument in Newport Church records this fact. It consists of a female figure reclining her head on a marble book, with the text already quoted engraved on the book. Think, reader, what a sermon in stone that monument preaches! Think what a testimony it bears to the lesson before you this day, -- the mighty lesson that there is no true rest for anyone except in Christ! Happy will it be for your soul if that lesson is never forgotten!

Does any reader desire to possess the rest that Christ alone can give and yet feel afraid to seek it? I beseech you, as a friend to your soul, to cast this needless fear away. For what did Christ die on the cross, if not to save sinners? For what does He sit at the right hand of God, if not to receive and intercede for sinners? When Christ invites you so plainly, and promises you so freely, why should you rob your own soul, and refuse to come to Him?

I Corinthians 15:1-4, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: "*

Who, among all, desire to be saved by Christ, and yet is not saved at present? Come, I beseech you: come to Christ without delay. Though

you have been a great sinner, come. Though you have long resisted warnings, counsels, sermons, come. Though you have sinned against light and knowledge, against a father's advice and a mother's tears, come. Though you have plunged into every excess of wickedness, and lived without a Sabbath and without prayer, yet come. The door is not shut; the fountain is not yet closed. Jesus Christ invites you. It is enough that you feel laboring and heavy-laden, and desire to be saved. Come: come to Christ without delay!

Come to Him by faith, and pour out your heart before Him in prayer. Tell Him the whole story of your life, and ask Him to receive you. Cry to Him as the penitent thief did, when he saw Him on the cross. Say to Him, "Lord, save me also! Lord, remember me!" Come: come to Christ!

If you have never come to this point yet, you must come to it at last, if you desire to be saved. You must apply to Christ as a sinner; you must have personal dealings with the great Physician, and apply to Him for a cure. Why not do it at once? Why not this very day accept the great invitation? Once more I repeat my advice and entreaty: Come: come to Christ without delay!

Has any reader found the rest which Christ gives? Have you tasted true peace by coming to Him and casting your soul on Him? Then go on to the end of your days as you have begun, "Looking to Jesus" and living on Him. Go on drawing daily full supplies of rest, peace, mercy, and grace from the great fountain of rest and peace. Remember that, if you live till the age of Methuselah, you will never be anything but a poor empty sinner, owing all you have and hope for to Christ alone.

Never be ashamed of living the life of faith in Christ. Men may ridicule and mock you, and even silence you in argument, but they can never take from you the feeling which true faith in Christ gives. They can never prevent you feeling, "I was

wearily till I found Christ, but now I have rest of conscience. I was blind, but now I see; I was dead, but I am alive again; I was lost, but I am found."

Invite all around you to come to Christ. Use every lawful effort to bring father, mother, husband, wife, children, brothers, sisters, friends, relatives, companions, fellowworkmen, fellow-servants, --to bring all and every one to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Spare no pains. Speak to them about Christ: speak to Christ about them. II Timothy 4:2, "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season ...*" Numbers 10:29, "*And Moses said unto Hobab ... come thou with us, and we will do thee good ...*" The more you try to do for the souls of others, the more blessing will you get for your own soul.

Last, but not least, look forward with confidence to a better "Rest" in a world to come. Hebrews 10:36-37, "*For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*" He will gather together all who have believed in Him, and take His people to a home where the wicked shall cease from troubling, and the weary shall be at rest. He shall give them a glorious body, in which they shall serve Him without distraction and praise Him without weariness. Isaiah 25:8, "*He will swallow up death in victory; and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces ...*" and make all things new.

There is a good time awaiting all weary ones who have come to Christ and committed their souls into His keeping. In the eternal rest of the world to come they will remember all the way by which they have been led, and see the wisdom of every step in the way. They will wonder why they ever doubted the kindness and love of their Shepherd. Above all, they will wonder that they could live so long without Him, and that when they

heard of Him they could hesitate about coming to Him for rest.

Conclusion: Rest in His finished work. Acts 16:30-31, "*... Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him ~he word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.*"