

An Invitation to Rest

#303, Week of 8-5-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Are you weary from the daily drudgery of work at the office or from keeping house? Are you laden with care, financial or otherwise? Do you have a heavy heart or a burdened conscience? Jesus Christ says to you, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Here is a simple invitation. It is an invitation to follow Jesus Christ. Christ offers rest to those who follow Him. The Lord Jesus also speaks of taking up His yoke. A yoke is something you shoulder in order to work. The work Jesus Christ has for you involves following His commandments. Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). 1 John 5:3 says, "His commandments are not burdensome."

You see, no matter what your daily tasks involve, if you reject Christ's rules for living, your yoke will be heavy. Your work will wear you out. Why? You will be striving against God. You can't reject God and His commandments and expect life to be easy. You need to accept Christ's invitation. He promises, "I will give you rest."

Good News

#304, Week of 8-12-2018

Dr. Dennis Prutow

The Good News about Jesus Christ speaks about the forgiveness of sins. Are we sinners? The Bible declares, "There is no distinction; for all have sinned" (Romans 3:22-23). If this is true, we deserve punishment for our sins. In the end, death is the penalty for all sin. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Ultimate death is spiritual, "the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

The Good News is that Jesus Christ died on a cross to pay the penalty due to people like us for our sins. He was banished from God's loving presence. On the cross He cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

The Good News is that faith in Christ's sacrifice brings us forgiveness. We need not fear death. Death becomes the gateway to heaven and God's gracious presence. Jesus promised His disciples, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Believe the Good News. Follow Jesus Christ.

Power for Living

#313, Week of 8-19-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Some people seem to have tremendous reserves of inner strength. Where do they get it? They may exhort us to look to ourselves for that power, the power of positive thinking, etc.

Real power for living, or I should say, any power for living, comes from without. It comes from God. The Bible promises, "The God of all grace...will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10). This is a wonderful promise. It is a part of the Good News of Jesus Christ. In other words, this is a promise directed to Christians. This is a covenant made with those receiving inner cleansing from guilt and sin through Jesus Christ. This is a pledge for those who dedicate themselves to following Christ.

Outside of Christ you must depend on your own reserves of inner strength. You can maintain this posture for a while. Don't get overconfident. Sooner or later you will come to the end of your rope. We all do. Many nervous breakdowns and panic attacks result from a failure to acknowledge this.

Turn to Christ. Receive new life from Him. Dependence upon Christ is not a sign of weakness. On the contrary, Christ is the source of life. If Christ is living in you, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

What is Faith?

#373, Week of 8-26-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

An old hymn intones, "Only believe. Only believe. All things are possible. Only believe." Wait. At the end of empty faith there are empty dreams. Faith that is worthy of the name always has an object. People believe in someone or something, even if it's themselves.

The faith of the Bible is never empty. It is a faith in Jesus Christ. It is belief in the truth that He is God who entered the world in human form. It is belief in the certainty that He lived an earthly life of sinless perfection on behalf of those who believe—in Him. It is belief in the fact that Jesus Christ was crucified. It is belief in the explanation that He died to pay for the sins of those who believe—in Him. It is belief in the record that Jesus Christ was raised from the grave. It is belief in the verity that He lived again to conquer death and the fear of death for all those who do believe—in Him.

Not only so, it is belief in these truths: that Jesus Christ ascended bodily into heaven, that He sat down on the throne of God, that He pours out the Holy Spirit from heaven, and that He reigns as King to give confidence and purpose for living to those who believe—in Him.
