

## Come to Jesus this Christmas

### Matthew 11:28-30

28 *“Come unto me, all of you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

As we come to the end of the year, many people are expressing how tired and weary they feel, and how that makes life somewhat more difficult in coping with day-to-day requirements.

With all the commercialism of Christmas, the advertising, to buy this and that and something else, we lose sight of the main reason for the season.

So in sharing with the disciples about how to deal with the needs of their daily life and walk, Jesus says to them *‘Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.’*

It’s interesting that when we talk about coming to Jesus often we get distracted from that. Somehow or other when it comes to a personal walk of salvation we get confused with whether it is something that is attained or something that is received, or we get confused with the whole idea of investigation verses revelation.

### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- The many opportunities to share the gospel through various mission trips to – Impact Carnarvon, Broome, Boyup Brook/Bridgetown and Impact Africa
- So many commitments to Christ from the use of the Challenge paper throughout 2023
- God’s direction and wisdom over the year in terms of the different editions of the paper and for the right stories to be produced each month

I’ve written stories over the years where people have investigated and investigated Christianity but ultimately come into a personal relationship with the Lord as a result of God’s revelation of Himself. It’s all a bit like Isaiah 6 where he saw the Lord high and lifted up and all of a sudden he saw himself as he truly was.

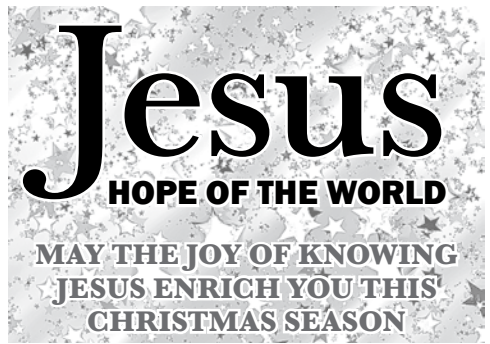
It’s interesting that Jesus says, *‘Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden.’* The word weary there means absolutely exhausted or totally disillusioned. I think this is something that is happening in our society today, where people have become exhausted by pursuing the things of the world, by pursuing things that really don’t bring satisfaction or fulfilment. The end result of this of course has been that we have many people who become so dreadfully disillusioned in their search for Christianity.

But then there are those who when they read this; *‘Come unto Jesus all*



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*you who are weary and heavy laden* will come to anything and everything but Jesus. We can come to people who we think can answer our problems, and they may come in the form of a counsellor, or maybe a cult leader or in the form of people involved in the New Age or witchcraft or even a friend. People can also start setting all sorts of goals for their lives, thinking that if they have certain goals and achieve them that this will bring the REST they so desperately want. But sadly for many the end result is exhaustion and disillusionment.



Also, Jesus calls us to cast off the burden; that is the burden of our own spiritual bankruptcy.

#### **PRAYER needed for:**

- For editions of Challenge going out this month – Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Military, USA, Prison edition for South Africa
- God's leading and direction for the Challenge Board as they prayerfully consider the vision for 2024
- Additional Board members to help us navigate the future as we continue to take on new projects. We are now particularly seeking a person with financial skills to come onto the Board as our Treasurer. Please contact [john@challengenews.org](mailto:john@challengenews.org)
- We are also seeking a financial officer in our Perth office. We seek a qualified person for the day-to-day bookkeeping. Two days per week is a minimum requirement. Please contact [john@challengenews.org](mailto:john@challengenews.org) if you are interested.

I know that when it comes to this whole idea of walking with Jesus, of coming into a personal relationship with Jesus, that there are many people who are carrying burdens that God never meant them to carry.

You know Christmas is all about being delivered from all the various burdens that we as human beings seem to load up on ourselves, and they come in different forms and in different degrees. For instance there's the burden of guilt. There are many people who are living with the guilt of what they've done in the past, unable to accept forgiveness from God and often sadly unable to forgive themselves. They seem unable to recognise that there is a God who is more willing to forgive them than they are willing to confess.

And then there are those who are involved in the burden of religion, that is, trying to save themselves, trying to make themselves acceptable before a holy God, trying to find peace and joy and contentment in something that is of a human origin.

But what people have got to realise is that joy and contentment and peace is in a person and that person is JESUS. Thus we see why Jesus came to Earth.

{ CARL CARMODY  
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