

SUNDAY CLASS

10/12/08

“In these verses we have Christ looking up to heaven, with thanksgiving to his Father for the sovereignty and security of the covenant of redemption; and looking around him upon this earth, with an offer to all the children of men, to whom these gifts come, of the privileges, benefits, and responsibilities of the covenant of grace.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 11:25 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Son Gives Knowledge and Rest

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to infants.

*“**Note, We may take great encouragement in looking upward to God, when round about us we see nothing but what is discouraging.*

(1.) In all our approaches to God, by praise as well as by prayer, it is good for us to eye him as a Father, and to fasten on that relation, not only when we ask for the mercies we want, but when we give thanks for the mercies we have received. Mercies are then doubly sweet, and powerful to enlarge the heart in praise, when they are received as tokens of a Father’s love, and gifts of a Father’s hand; Giving thanks to the Father, Colossians 1:12 “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” It becomes children to be grateful, and to say, Thank you, father, as readily as, Pray, father.

(2.) When we come to God as a Father, we must withal remember, that he is Lord of heaven and earth; which obliges us to come to him with reverence, as to the sovereign Lord of all, and yet with confidence, as one able to do for us whatever we need or can desire; to defend us from all evil and to supply us with all good. Christ, in Melchizedec, had long since blessed God as the Possessor, or Lord of heaven and earth; and in all our thanksgivings for mercies in the stream, we must give him the glory of the all-sufficiency that is in the fountain.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

“(1.) The great things of the everlasting gospel have been and are hid from many that were wise and prudent, that were eminent for learning and worldly policy; some of the greatest scholars and the greatest statesmen have been the greatest strangers to gospel mysteries. The world by wisdom knew not God, 1 Corinthians 1:21 “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.” Nay, there is an opposition given to the gospel, by a science falsely so called, 1 Timothy 6:20 “Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,” Those who are most expert in things sensible and secular, are commonly least experienced in spiritual things. Men may dive deeply into the mysteries of nature and into the mysteries of state, and yet be ignorant of, and mistake about, the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, for want of an experience of the power of them.

(2.) While the wise and prudent men of the world are in the dark about gospel mysteries, even the babes in Christ have the sanctifying saving knowledge of them: Thou hast revealed them unto babes. Such the disciples of Christ were; men of mean birth and education; no scholars, no artists, no politicians, unlearned and ignorant men, Acts 4:13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Thus are the secrets of wisdom, which are double to that which is (Job 11:6) "and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin." made known to babes and sucklings, that out of their mouth strength might be ordained (Psalms 8:2) "From the lips of children and infants

you have ordained praise
because of your enemies,

to silence the foe and the avenger." , and God's praise thereby perfected. The learned men of the world were not made choice of to be the preachers of the gospel, but the foolish things of the world (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).
6We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived

what God has prepared for those who love him"^[a]— 10but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

(3.) This difference between the prudent and the babes is of God's own making.

[1.] It is he that has hid these things from the wise and prudent; he gave them parts, and learning, and much of human understanding above others, and they were proud of that, and rested in it, and looked no further; and therefore God justly denies them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, and then, though they hear the sound of the gospel tidings, they are to them as a strange thing. God is not the Author of their ignorance and error, but he leaves them to themselves, and their sin becomes their punishment, and the Lord is righteous in it. See John 12:39-40; Romans 11:7-8; Acts 28:26- 27."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

John 12:39-40 (New International Version)

39For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

40'He has blinded their eyes
and deadened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them."

Romans 11:7-8 (New International Version)

7What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, &as it is written:

"God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes so that they could not see
and ears so that they could not hear,
to this very day."

Acts 28:26-27 (New International Version)

26' 'Go to this people and say,
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."
27For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.' Had they honored God with the wisdom and prudence they had, he would have given them the knowledge of these better things; but because they served their lusts with them, he has hid their hearts from this understanding.

Luke 10:21-22 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Son Reveals the Father

21 In that same hour He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, because this was Your good pleasure. 22 All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him."

Psalm 8:2 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

2 Because of Your adversaries,
You have established a stronghold
from the mouths of children and nursing infants,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Luke 22:42 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

42 "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me—nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."

John 11:41 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You heard Me.

1 Corinthians 1:26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Boasting Only in the Lord

26 Brothers, consider your calling: not many are wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth.

2 Corinthians 3:14 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

14 But their minds were closed. For to this day, at the reading of the old covenant, the same veil remains; it is not lifted, because it is set aside [only] in Christ.

Matthew 11:26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

26 Yes, Father, because this was Your good pleasure.

***Note, We may take great encouragement in looking upward to God, when round about us we see nothing but what is discouraging.

It is sad to see how regardless most men are of their own happiness, but it is comfortable to think that the wise and faithful God will, however, effectually secure the interests of his own glory. Jesus answered and said, I thank thee.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 11:27 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

27 All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him.

“The Father has delivered his all into the hands of the Lord Jesus; let us but deliver our all into his hand and the work is done; God has made him the great Referee, the blessed Daysman, to lay his hand upon us both; that which we have to do is to agree to the reference, to submit to the arbitration of the Lord Jesus, for the taking up of this unhappy controversy, and to enter into bonds to stand to his award.

His intimacy with the Father: No man knoweth the Son but the Father, Neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son. This gives us a further satisfaction, and an abundant one. Ambassadors use to have not only their commissions, which they produce, but their instructions, which they reserve to themselves, to be made use of as there is occasion in their negotiations; our Lord Jesus had both, not only authority, but ability, for his undertaking. In transacting the great business of our redemption, the Father and the Son are the parties principally concerned; the counsel of peace is between them, Zechariah 6:13 “It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.” It must therefore be a great encouragement to us to be assured, that they understood one another very well in this affair; that the Father knew the Son, and the Son knew the Father, and both perfectly (a mutual consciousness we may call it, between the Father and the Son), so that there could be no mistake in the settling of this matter; as often there is among men, to the overthrow of contracts, and the breaking of the measures taken, through their misunderstanding one another.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 28:18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

John 1:18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

18 No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son — the One who is at the Father's side — He has revealed Him.

John 7:29 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

29 I know Him because I am from Him, and He sent Me."

John 8:19 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

19 Then they asked Him, "Where is Your Father?"

"You know neither Me nor My Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew Me, you would also know My Father."

John 10:14-15 (New International Version)

14"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— *15*just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 17:25-26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

25 Righteous Father!

The world has not known You.

However, I have known You,

and these have known that You sent Me.

26 I made Your name known to them

and will make it known,

so the love You have loved Me with

may be in them and I may be in them.

Matthew 11:28 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

28 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

"The sin and ruin of those woeful cities, no doubt, was a grief to the Lord Jesus; he could not but weep over them, as he did over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it; with this thought therefore he refreshes himself; and to make it the more refreshing, he puts it into a thanksgiving; that for all this, there is a remnant, though but babes, to whom the things of the gospel are revealed. Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall he be glorious."



Are You Ready to give up the Yoke of SIN?

****Note, All those, and those only, are invited to rest in Christ, that are sensible of sin as a burden, and groan under it; that are not only convinced of the evil of sin, of their own sin, but are contrite in soul for it; that are really sick of their sins, weary of the service of the world and of the flesh; that see their state sad and dangerous by reason of sin, and are in pain and fear about it, as Ephraim (Jeremiah 31:18–20), the prodigal (Luke 15:17), the publican (Luke 18:13), Peter’s hearers (Acts 2:37), Paul (Acts 9:4, 6, 9), the jailor (Acts 16:29, 30).”*

“[1.] The happiness of men lies in an acquaintance with God; it is life eternal, it is the perfection of rational beings.

[2.] Those who would have an acquaintance with God, must apply themselves to Jesus Christ; for the light of the knowledge of the glory of God shines in the face of Christ, 2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” We are obliged to Christ for all the revelation we have of God the Father’s will and love, ever since Adam sinned; there is no comfortable intercourse between a holy God and sinful man, but in and by a Mediator, John 14:6.”

John 14:6 (New International Version)

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

“This is a necessary preparative for pardon and peace. The Comforter must first convince (John 16:8); I have torn and then will heal.”

John 16:8 (New International Version)

8When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

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Luke 19:41 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Jesus' Love for Jerusalem

41 As He approached and saw the city, He wept over it,

Romans 6:17-18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

17 But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to, 18 and having been liberated from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

Matthew 23:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

4 They tie up heavy loads that are hard to carry and put them on people's shoulders, but they themselves aren't willing to lift a finger to move them.

Jeremiah 31:25 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

25 for I satisfy the thirsty person and feed all those who are weak."

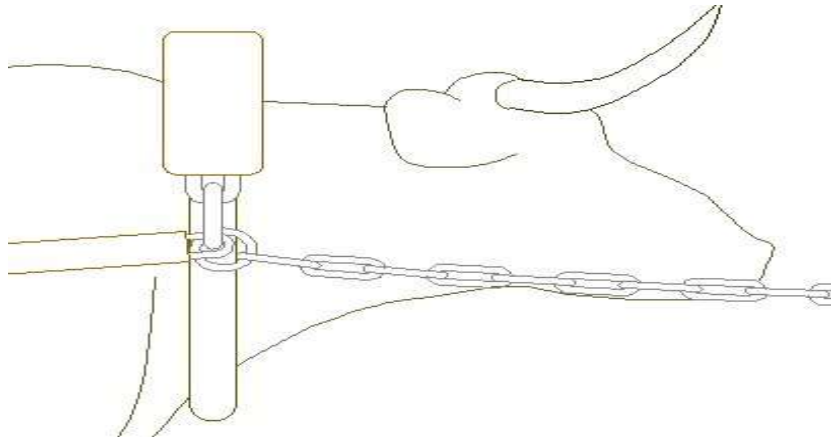
John 7:37 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Promise of the Spirit

37 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink!

Matthew 11:29 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

29 All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves.



Are You Ready to put His Yoke on?

***Note, It is the duty and interest of weary and heavy laden sinners to come to Jesus Christ.

“Renouncing all those things which stand in opposition to him, or in competition with him, we must accept of him, as our Physician and Advocate, and give up ourselves to his conduct and government; freely willing to be saved by him, in his own way, and upon his own terms. Come and cast that burden upon him, under which thou art heavy laden. This is the gospel call, The Spirit saith, Come; and the bride saith, Come; let him that is athirst come; Whoever will, let him come.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

*** Note, Christ has a yoke for our necks, as well as a crown for our heads, and this yoke he expects we should take upon us and draw in.

“To call those who are weary and heavy laden, to take a yoke upon them, looks like adding affliction to the afflicted; but the pertinency of it lies in the word my: "You are under a yoke which makes you weary: shake that off and try mine, which will make you easy." Servants are said to be under the yoke (1 Timothy 6:1) “All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.”, and subjects, 1 Kings 12:10 “The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'-tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.'” To take Christ's yoke upon us, is to put ourselves into the relation to servants and subjects to him, and then of conduct ourselves accordingly, in a conscientious obedience to all his commands, and a cheerful submission to all his disposals: it is to obey the gospel of Christ, to yield ourselves to the Lord: it is Christ's yoke; the yoke he has appointed; a yoke he has himself drawn in before us, for he learned obedience, and which he does by his Spirit draw in with us, for he helps with our infirmities, Romans 8:26, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” A yoke speaks some hardship, but if the beast must draw, the yoke helps him. Christ's commands are all in our favor: we must take this yoke upon us to draw in it. We are yoked to work, and therefore must be diligent; we are yoked to submit, and therefore must be humble and patient: we are yoked together with our fellow-servants, and therefore must keep up the communion of saints: and the words of the wise are as goads, to those who are thus yoked.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

John 13:15 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

15 For I have given you an example (that you also should do just as I have done for you.

Ephesians 4:20 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

20 But that is not how you learned about the Messiah,

Philippians 2:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Christ's Humility and Exaltation

5 Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,

1 Peter 2:21 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

21 For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps.

1 John 2:6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

6 the one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

Jeremiah 6:16 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Disaster Because of Disobedience

16 This is what the LORD says:
Stand by the roadways and look.
Ask about the ancient paths:
Which is the way to what is good?
Then take it
and find rest for yourselves.
But they protested: We won't!

Zechariah 9:9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

The Coming of Zion's King

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your King is coming to you;
He is righteous and victorious,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Philippians 2:7-8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave,

taking on the likeness of men.

And when He had come as a man in His external form,

8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient

to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

Matthew 11:30 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

“Now this is the hardest part of our lesson, and therefore it is qualified (v. 30). My yoke is easy and my burden is light; you need not be afraid of it.

[1.] The yoke of Christ's commands is an easy yoke; it is chrestos , not only easy, but gracious, so the word signifies; it is sweet and pleasant; there is nothing in it to gall the yielding neck, nothing to hurt us, but, on the contrary, must to refresh us. It is a yoke that is lined with love. Such is the nature of all Christ's commands, so reasonable in themselves, so profitable to us, and all summed up in one word, and that a sweet word, love. So powerful are the assistances he gives us, so suitable the encouragements, and so strong the consolations, that are to be found in the way of duty, that we may truly say, it is a yoke of pleasantness. It is easy to the new nature, very easy to him that understandeth, Proverbs 14:6 The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning. It may be a little hard at first, but it is easy afterwards; the love of God and the hope of heaven will make it easy. [2.] The burden of Christ's cross is a light burden, very light: afflictions from Christ, which befall us as men; afflictions for Christ, which befall us as Christians; the latter are especially meant. This burden in itself is not joyous, but grievous; yet as it is Christ's, it is light.”

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Christ's Yoke of Love