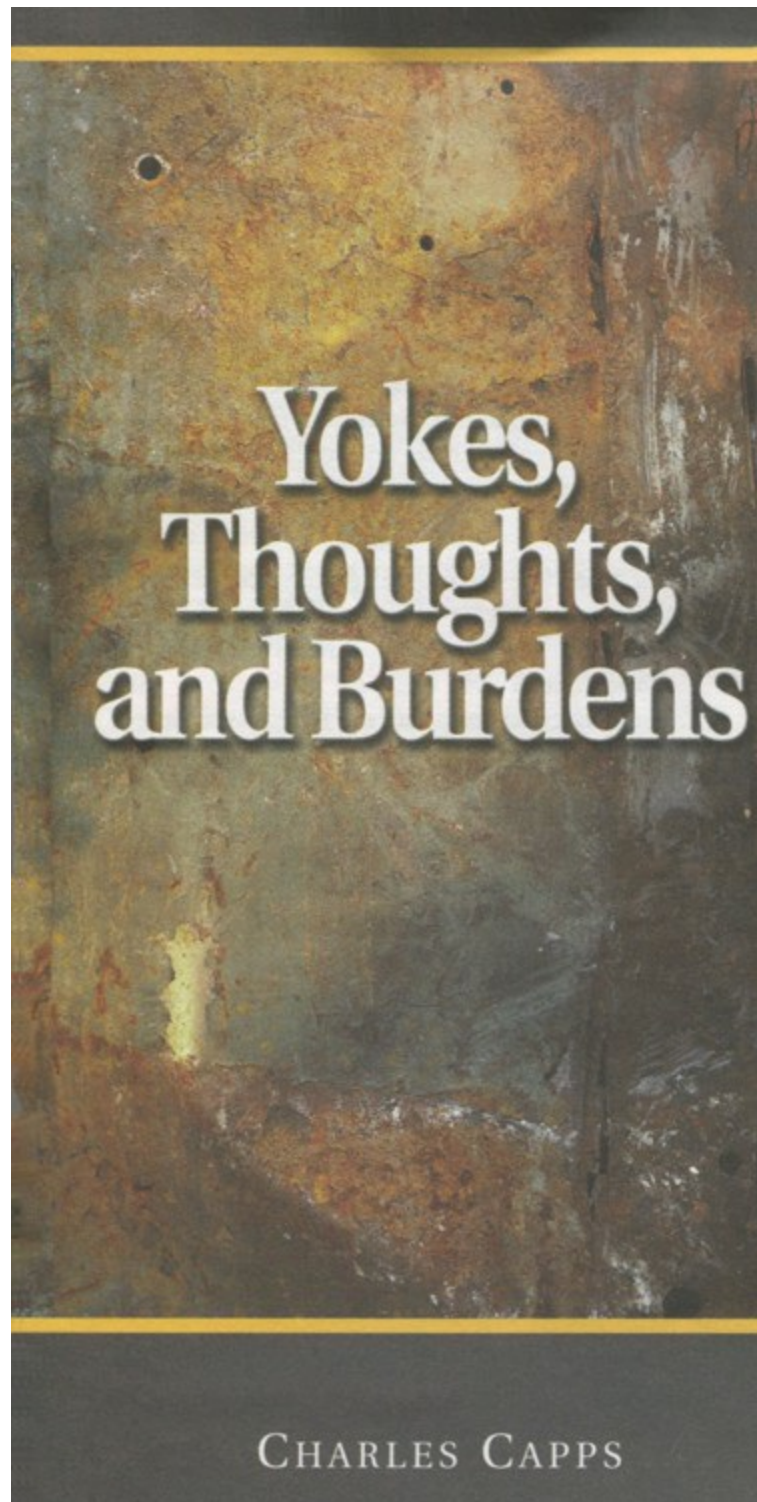


Yokes, Thoughts, and Burdens

CHARLES CAPPS



YOKES, THOUGHTS, AND

BURDENS

Many people think the trials and burdens of life are ordained of God. But the truth is God wants His Word to undo the heavy burdens.

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said,

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” The way some people talk, you would think this Scripture reads, “Come unto Me, all ye that have no problems, and I will burden you down with all the problems and cares of life.”

There are many religious people who believe they must be burdened in life in order to please God. The words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28 give us a very different perspective. His message is good news, but the religious tradition of men will often turn it into bad news.

The message of Jesus in Matthew

11:29 reveals that His yoke will bring
rest to your soul: *“Take my yoke upon*

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*you, and learn of me; for I am meek and
lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest
unto your souls.”*

In those days, two or more oxen
were connected together with a wooden
yoke that fit over their necks so they
could all pull the load. If there was a
knot on that wooden yoke, it would rub
the oxen raw in a certain place.

When Jesus was saying this to His
disciples, they were probably standing
under an olive tree, watching a man
work on a yoke that wasn't fitting
properly.

Jesus said that if you'll come to Me

and get yoked up with Me, My yoke is custom-made to fit. When you are yoked together with Me. I'll bear the load and make the burden light.

(Paraphrased)

BURDEN NOT FROM GOD

Those who are always weighed down with a heavy burden have not learned to take His yoke. Many believe God gave them that heavy burden. But Jesus said, *“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:30)

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Yokes, Thoughts, and Burdens

Many Christians take on burdens that God never intended for them to have. Some who are in the ministry take upon themselves all the burdens of others, instead of casting them on the Lord. Peter tells us how to lighten the

load, *“Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.”* (I Peter 5:7)

Too often it is our words, not His,
that have become our burden. The
words of Jesus should comfort every
heart.

While we are on this subject, let’s
look at what God said about burdens:

*And when this people, or the
prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee,
saying, What is the burden of the
LORD? thou shalt then say unto
them, What burden? I will even
forsake you, saith the LORD. And
as for the prophet, and the priest,
and the people, that shall say, The
burden of the LORD, I will even
punish that man and his house.*

(Jeremiah 23:33-34)

People say, “I have this heavy

burden from the Lord.” But Jesus said,

“Come unto me...I will give you rest...

my yoke is easy and my burden is

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light.” God said: Every man’s words

shall be his burden. *“And the burden of*

the LORD shall ye mention no more:

for every man’s word shall be his

burden; for ye have perverted the words

of the living God, of the LORD of hosts

our God.” (Jeremiah 23:36)

The truth is God wants to unladen

you of your heavy burdens, not put them

on you. So much of the time it is a

person’s attitude about what God’s

Word said to do that becomes a burden.

If you are not properly yoked with

Jesus, life’s circumstances will rub you

raw. Religion will burden you if you

don't rightly divide the Word of Truth.

DON'T SAY BURDEN OF THE LORD

*But since ye say, The burden
of the LORD; therefore thus saith
the LORD; Because ye say this
word, The burden of the LORD,
and I have sent unto you, saying,
Ye shall not say, The burden of the
LORD; Therefore, behold, I, even
I, will utterly forget you, and I will
forsake you... (Jeremiah 23:38-39)*

It seems that Israel had considered
the prophetic Word delivered to them

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through the prophets to be a burden. If
they had been obedient to that Word,
their burdens would have been lifted off
them.

The Prophet Isaiah shows the

difference between Israel's religious
fasts and the fast God had chosen:

*Is it such a fast that I have
chosen? a day for a man to afflict
his soul? is it to bow down his head
as a bulrush, and to spread
sackcloth and ashes under him?
wilt thou call this a fast, and an
acceptable day to the LORD? Is
not this the fast that I have chosen?
to loose the bands of wickedness,
to undo the heavy burdens, and to
let the oppressed go free, and that
ye break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:5-
6)*

We have all had the wrong idea
about burdens. God meant His Word to
be good news not bad news. Jesus said
to the Pharisees of His day that the
traditions of men make "... *the word of*

God of none effect...” (Mark 7:13)

God is on your side, and He wants to undo your burdens and break every religious yoke.

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One of the problems today is that many Christians, especially ministers, take the problems of others upon themselves. They are self-imposed burdens. Some even leave the ministry because they took the burdens of their congregations on themselves. God doesn't want you to play God—you can't handle it.

CAST YOUR CARES UPON HIM

Peter tells us one of the ways to undo the heavy burdens: *“Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you.”* (I Peter 5:7) We must learn to cast

all our cares upon Jesus. God never intended for you to take the problems of others on yourself.

Are you burdened because you have taken the cares and burdens of everyone who came to you with a prayer request?

You prayed with them but never released it to the Lord. If you will, in faith, cast it over on the Lord, you won't be burdened with it... but you will be thanking and praising God for meeting that need.

People say, "Would you pray and

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agree with me about a certain situation?" I would pray and be in agreement. The Bible said "... *if two of you shall agree... it shall be done...*"

(Matthew 18:19) But when I am through

praying, they will say, “Brother Capps,
just keep praying.” It’s obvious they
didn’t understand the prayer of faith.

After I prayed in faith about that
situation and I have released my faith,
it’s finished. I cast that care on the Lord.

(I John 5:14)

If you take all these cares on
yourself, eventually you won’t be able
to help anyone. You will have more
burdens than you know how to handle.
Don’t forget the words of Jesus, “*Come
unto me... take my yoke... my yoke is
easy and my burden is light.*” His yoke
is custom-made, and it won’t rub you
raw.

GOD’S THOUGHTS

When you have taken His yoke
upon yourself and lightened the load,
there always seems to be someone who

will try to put a knot in your yoke by quoting a Scripture out of context.

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For instance, have you ever heard someone quote Isaiah 55:8-9? *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

These verses have become sacred cows (so to speak) to some people, and they are held in bondage by them. They say, “Yes, God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts. God’s ways are higher than our ways.” They are implying that we should never expect to be able to have God’s thoughts or

operate in His ways. They missed the whole point by not keeping it in the context.

That's what I call a false truth. By that I mean, it is in the Bible, but we must keep it in the context of which it was written, or it can be very misleading.

THE WICKED MAN'S THOUGHTS

When we read verses 6 thru 8 together, we get God's perspective.

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*Seek ye the LORD while he
may be found, call ye upon him
while he is near: Let the wicked
forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts: and
let him return unto the LORD, and
he will have mercy upon him; and*

*to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon. For my thoughts are not
your thoughts, neither are your
ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

(Isaiah 55:6-8)

When God says, “... *my thoughts
are not your thoughts...*” He is referring
to the wicked.

We who are in Christ can have His
thoughts and know His ways. The
Apostle Paul said, “*Be ye therefore
followers (imitators) of God, as dear
children.*” (Ephesians 5:1)

TRUTH IS REVEALED IN CONTEXT

If we study God’s Word in the
context which it was written and other
related Scriptures, the truth is revealed
as we see in the following verses:

*For as the rain cometh down,
and the snow from heaven, and*

returneth not thither, but watereth

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the earth, and maketh it bring forth

and bud, that it may give seed to

the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth

forth out of my mouth: it shall not

return unto me void, but it shall

accomplish that which I please,

and it shall prosper in the thing

whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

GOD'S WAYS CAN BE YOUR WAYS

In Isaiah 55, God said the exact

opposite of what most people thought

He said. "The Word I sent is like rain

which comes down from heaven, and it

causes the earth to bud, and causes it to

bring forth fruit, and furnishes seed to

the sower so that you can operate in My

ways. I've sent you the seed of My
Word. Put it in your mouth and sow it.
My ways will work for you."

(Paraphrased) (Mark 4:14-20; Mark
11:23-24; Romans 10:6-10)

This is good news, but the religious
ideas of man make the Word unfruitful.
If you hold fast to the truth, God will
teach you His ways. Jesus said, "*Be ye
therefore perfect, even as your Father
which is in heaven is perfect.*"

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(Matthew 5:48)

Paul said, "*Be ye therefore
followers (imitators) of God, as dear
children.*" (Ephesians 5:1) To imitate
God, we must operate in His ways. Yes,
God's ways are higher than the ways of
the wicked, but the righteous can learn

to walk in God's ways. And if we have
the custom-made yoke of Jesus, the task
at hand becomes easy, and the burdens
become light.

MARANATHA!



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