

I. Introduction

- A. Why is it that after we commit our lives to Christ we still struggle and fall short?
- B. Why do we find ourselves facing the same issues repeatedly?
- C. Why am I still searching for significance in the things that will never payout?

II. Explanation (explain from Tim perspective – “Yoke is a metaphor for service”

1 Tim 6:4-5 he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he ^[a]has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that ^[b]godliness is a means of gain.

1 Tim 6:3 pursue Christs doctrine *that transforms us into Christlikeness (mystery of godliness)*

1 Tim 6:11 “Flee from these things”

- A. Rhetoricians, sophists – cynic, philostratus, Dio Chrysostrom, Niger, Diogenes
- B. We have brought a yoke(s) (burdens) into our Christianity and must learn how to shed.
- C. Coming under Christs yoke frees us from any other yoke
- D. Paul is encouraging Tim to be yoked with the gospel and refuse any other yoke.

III. What has Paul been communicating to Timothy?

Mt. 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all ¹who 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 will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- A. Jesus is offering us renewal amidst of striving, laboring and working, competing, temptations
 - 1. root greek is "pauo" -Literally like a pause -
 - 2. He is not saying I'm going to take it away!
 - 3. He is saying I will transform you!
- B. What exactly do we need rest from?
 - 1. Demonic oppression, accidents, natural troubles, consequential adversities, relationship
 - 2. Weary= kopaio / most wearisome kind of labor
 - 3. Heavy laden= phortidzo/ a normal load or burden for a person
 - 4. A God allowed assignment- its not quick, easy, nor near done-are you're out of gas!

Some of you have had to deal with and overcome significant troubles- Emotionally, mentally, relationally, physically or just plain hard work in a variety of areas. Either way you are offered rest as you come under the yoke of Jesus Christ.

C. Consider 1 Tim 6:3-12

These men were travelling and debating under the idea of “wisdom and knowledge” – debating and arguing – consider what this all led to! Timothy was encouraged to “flee these things” – “fight the good fight”

- 1. Ephesus had been imprisoned under a yoke of false teachings
- 2. The household of God was in a place of bondage and oppression

1 Tim 6:10 Wandered away from the faith- pierced with many griefs”

- 3. Jesus (by way of Paul) brought refreshment and renewal to Ephesus through Timothy via a

Spirit of prophecy.

Rev. 19:10 "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- a) Timothy heard the words of Christ and "remained on" in Ephesus
- 4. Tim resisted the temptation to fall under a yoke of bondage
- 5. Tim submitted himself to the "the yoke of Jesus"

IV. What is our responsibility in being yoked w Christ"

Mt. 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you"

- A. **Take up - Gk-airo = deliberately lift up or take up- intentionally**
- B. We must specifically and deliberately invite Jesus into our many "Yokes"
- C. Yoke- "zugos" - tool used to combine strength of 2 animals to pull a greater load.
- D. Sharing His yoke makes the work fruitful and doable "we become inseparable!"
- E. Inviting Jesus into your life, business, ministry - must be a pre-meditated and deliberate choice.

V. How does this affect my life, when I "Take up" ?

Mt. 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light

- A. He wants to give you ease and delight.
- B. Easy- Chrestos - pleasurable, delightful "its a delight to work with Jesus!"
- C. As we find this reality of being "yoked" with Jesus we find His strength, to press in through adversity.

VI. Steps to walking in the reality of being yoked with Jesus.

- A. **Identify** your yokes – tasks, burdens, responsibilities, sin, temptations
- B. **Respond** – by learning to present yourself to the Holy Spirit!
- C. **Deliberately Submit**- to Christ in your process - reject temptation to complain or entertain
- D. **Expect** to learn to repeat this process - expect to grow!

VII. Ministry

- A. Are you facing an overwhelming assignment - need relief
- B. Are you willing to submit your load to Christ today
- C. Will you come up here today and deliberately take up His yoke.