THE LORD'S **INVITATION....**

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and l will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

THE LORD'S INVITATION.... Mt. 11:28

THE LORD SAYS, "COME" First, man is away from God. Secondly, the reason for this separation ... SIN.

"Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear." (Isa 59:1-2)

THE INTELLIGENT INVITATION

Come now, and <u>let us reason together</u>, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18).

- The gospel of Christ is an intelligent revelation. (*Mt.* 28:18, 19)
- 1. It makes no appeal to superstition, popular prejudices, and blind emotionalism, like false religions do.

2.We "Walk by faith," a faith produced by the word of God (Rom. 10:17), and not by "cunningly devised fables" (2 Pet. 1:16). The gospel is both reasonable and right.

THE TENDER INVITATION

- Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". (Mt.
- Jesus, exceedingly sympathetic, and knowing the burdens and sorrows of man, extends rest to the weary and release from the bondage of sin.. *Heb.* 4:14-16
 As we read this invitation in its entirety it is seen to be two-fold in nature:
- (1) Coming unto Christ, and then,
- (2) Taking his yoke and learning of him. (Mt. 11:28; 16:24-20

HOW DO WE COME UNTO CHRIST?

Jesus has said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." (Jno. 6:44)

How God draws man, "It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all <u>taught</u> of God Every one therefore that <u>hath heard</u> from the Father, and <u>hath learned</u>, cometh unto me." (Jno. 6:45)

HOW DO WE COME UNTO CHRIST?

Three words summarize the procedure, Hearing, Learning, Coming, and these words indicate how God "draws" men unto Christ.

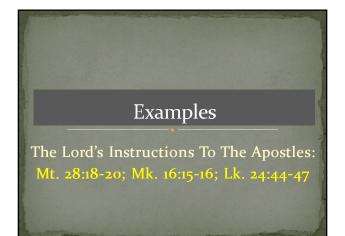
"Brethren, ye know that a good while ago God made choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should <u>hear</u> the word of the gospel, and <u>believe</u>." (Cf. Acts 15:7)

In the days of the New Testament, men <u>heard</u> the gospel, <u>believed</u>, and were <u>baptized</u>.

 Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were <u>baptized</u>, both men and women."
 Acts 18:8 "...and many of the Corinthians <u>hearing</u> believed, and were <u>baptized</u>." All such enjoyed the fulfillment of Christ's promise... "He that <u>believeth</u> and <u>is baptized shall be saved</u>" (Mk. 16:16), and "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47 KJV).



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Preaching	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized	Saved
Pentecost Acts 2:14-41		Repented 37-38		Baptized 38-41	Remission of sins 38-47
Samaria Acts 8:5-13	Believed 12			Baptized 12-13	
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	Believed 36-37		Confessed 37	Baptized 38	Rejoiced 39
Saul Acts 9:17-17; 22; 26				Baptized Acts 22:16; 9:18	Washed sins away Acts 22:16
Cornelius Acts 10:34-46; 11:14;15:7	Believed 10:43; 15:7			Baptized 10:48	Remission of sins 10:43
Lydia Acts 16:13	Attended 14			Baptized 15	
Jailor Acts 16:32	Believed 31	Repented 33		Baptized 33	

