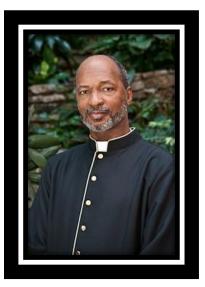
## The Bishop's Corner

## Lay down your burdens

Praise the Lord Saints,

"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall fine rest you're your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV)."

We are equipped with two things to help us get to heaven: the word of God and the Holy Ghost, and we have the responsibility to hear the word and stay in God. Therefore, the Holy Ghost needs to make room in us for the things of God; this requires us to lay aside the old things. If we insist on keeping all of the old things, we will have a difficult time on this road to heaven because they will get heavier each day. Jesus tells us to take His yoke because His burden is light.



The weight of the world system will wear us down. Do not put the things in the world system before God; love not the world (I John 2:15-17 KJV). We need the things of the world but we cannot let them take God's place. The world has nothing to do with our loving God; it is up to us. We can take Jesus' yoke and burden or we can stay the same. God will not force us to give Him our burdens, but He will set us free if we let Him. The labor that Jesus is talking about is us making it through the earth while living holy. Our problem is that we are still carrying burdens.

Jesus wants to take the burdens we are carrying so He can give us the rest we read about in Hebrews 4:8-11 KJV, which states: "For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

While we wait for Jesus to come back, we must have righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). What do people see most about us, is it our light or our darkness? We must continue to let our light shine so that people can see our good works and glorify God (Matthew 5:16). Every time someone rubs us the wrong way is an opportunity for the Holy Ghost to work in us so that we can get the rest God promised (Hebrews 4:8-11).

We need to let the Lord roll away all of our burdens. It is not unreasonable for us to be happy in God each day. Sometimes we blame others for our afflictions. We can have two minds: the Holy Ghost's new mind or our old mind. Jesus tells us that we can come to Him because He can fix it, and He promises to give us rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith Gulf Coast Jurisdiction