

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 (NLT) - ⁷The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. ⁸Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? ⁹If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! ¹⁰In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. ¹¹So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! ¹²Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. ¹⁴But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. ¹⁵Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. ¹⁶But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Matthew 11:25-30 (NLT) - ²⁵At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. ²⁶Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way! ²⁷"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." ²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Matthew 23:1-7 (NLT) - ²³Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²"The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. ⁴They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. ⁵"Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. ⁶And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. ⁷They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi.'

The Way of Jesus is an invitation to free us from condemnation.

Study Guide

We spoke this last week about the New Way, the Way of Jesus and how it is an invitation that frees us from condemnation. When we were speaking about this we talked about the burden that the world puts upon the people of the world. As you think about people you know, what are some of the burdens that they carry? How does that show up in their lives? How do they try and manage it?

By contrast, we spoke about the relief we find in coming along side Jesus and taking on his Way, or his yoke. What difference do you think it has made to you to join Jesus in his way? How different does the burden feel when we are with Jesus then when we are apart from Him?

We have great freedom in Jesus, but it does not mean that we will never have any cares or concerns. The difference is mainly found in what we do with those concerns. While the people without God must bear it on their own, we are called to something different. Take a moment to read Philippians 4:6-7. What does this tell you about how to manage burdens in relationship with Jesus? According to this scripture, what happens when we bring our cares to God?

So much of how we experience life comes down to whether we think we are on our own, or whether the Creator of the universe is there with us. This simple difference can completely transform how we experience so much. So, how do you ensure that you are reminding yourself that God is with you? How do you remind yourself to bring your cares to Him? How are you pursuing the Way of Jesus and the freedom that comes from that?

Take some time to pray for each other.