

## SADDLE OR YOKE?

Comments based on a devotional from “Remember Now . . .” by Walter Cavert, printed in 1944.

Walter Cavert wrote in a devotional in 1944, words that are still pungent with meaning for our world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Let us remember that Cavert’s comments were written in 1944 and Cavert will be referring to World War II. Now, Cavert says that before the war, that is, World War II, someone figured out that fifty years prior, actually the time would have been about 1894 and would be 126 years past for citizens now living in 2020, the average American wanted 72 different things and considered 18 of them important, while in 1944 he has 496 wants and considers 96 of them essential to happiness. Now, if we consider and compare those statistics for the 2020’s there would be a significant increase in wants and essentials. Many people are becoming slaves to the effort to secure the vast number of things they consider desirable, such as the latest electronic phones, computers, televisions and other electronic gadgets, fancy automobiles, extravagant homes, exclusive travel destinations, etc., or else are getting soured on life because they feel cheated out of things they think indispensable to their happiness. What Emerson says of his age is even more true of ours: “Things are in the saddle, And ride mankind.” Most of us have probably never thought of the “things in life” that we think important in such a manner. As a general rule mankind is the “horse” trying to carry all of the so-called “necessities” of life in order to obtain happiness. Our societies main problem is that the “horse” is overloaded, and unable to bear up under the load. Most of the maladies of life could probably be fixed if mankind had a clearer understanding of life. We need a more focused insight into the values of life. The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews describes the high position given to man by his Creator by saying, “Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.” If you can keep things in subjection and not let them become your master, you have gone a long way toward solving one of life’s most difficult problems. However, without Christ in one’s life, the foregoing admonition is impossible. Humankind is basically too proud to seek the help of our Creator. In such a technologically advanced age as ours, the general trend is that of humanity’s superiority. God is tossed out of the equation. Self-help, education, psychology, behavioral sciences, and a multiplicity of other disciplines are depended upon to correct all of the ills associated with finding wholeness, happiness, and security in life. The problem with these disciplines is that man is so defective from the beginning that no amount of self-help is going to fix all of the maladies of life.

Sin, is now, has been since Adam fell, and will always be the significant failure of human kind. This malevolent force is present in the life of every human being since the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. All mankind inherited this condition because of Adam’s sin, for “as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12.

Mankind is the “horse” carrying the full load of “sin,” laid in the saddle because of Adam’s transgression. In order to be delivered from this load of sin, the sinner must

come to Christ who is the only way of deliverance. Romans 5:13-21, is a parenthetical statement from Paul explaining man's offense and the remedy, "(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed where there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Paul concludes his reasoning in Romans 5:18-21 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Want to be free from all of the "load of sin" that you to carry? There is hope and there is help. You do not want to "saddle up" and keep those sins riding you. You want to come to Jesus Christ, confess your sins and your need of salvation and deliverance to Him. Instead of that saddle riding you take Christ's easy yoke. His admonition to you is, "Come unto me, all ye that labour 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 find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30). You will either have the saddle or the yoke. Sin will ride you or you can yoke up with Jesus and find peace and comfort.

#### PRAYER:

Father God, thank you for revealing to us that man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses. But his life springs forth into abundant blessings when, and only when, You become Lord of their life. Help all of those who read or hear these words to recognize their need to bring their burdens of sin unto Jesus Christ, so that He can provide rest for those who labor under that heavy yoke. Holy Father, forgive those who respond by coming to You. Help them to see that You are ready to provide the rest they so desperately need. In Jesus Name and for His glory we ask, AMEN.

---Dennis Robinson, D.Min

