

MATTHEW 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

You do not have to look very far to find someone in need of an encouraging word. The times we are in are certainly stressful and reflect many of the unfortunate characteristics Paul wrote about in 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5. More than a few people find it impossible to go through the day without some sort of an encounter that is unpleasant or even confrontational. Common courtesy and civility is now the exception rather than the norm in far too much of our day-to-day interaction. From the roadways to our work places and even in the places of business we frequent there is lacking the peace and cheerful atmosphere that we crave. Our culture is being bombarded with news of wars, death and a continuing downward path towards what many fear will lead to anarchy and a complete breakdown of our society. As a result, an attitude among many in our culture is surviving the day is the best they can expect. There is no hope or vision for the future. Their mind set is "let's eat, drink and make merry today because tomorrow we may well die". Even many believers have succumbed to the negativity and stress and have responded by writing off this generation as hopelessly lost and with nothing to look forward to but judgment. But I believe the Lord has better things in mind!

In the midst of the turmoil and confusion stands Jesus. Through His remnant people, He declares that in Him there is hope. In Him, there is deliverance, healing and restoration. He reaches out through His people on earth and reveals that His heart longs, not to destroy people for their sin but to save them from it. That He desires to set every captive free from whatever holds them in its death-dealing grip. That every sickness of spirit, soul and body can and will be healed as they will turn to Him. Beloved, the Lord has not given up on this generation and neither should we! The Holy Spirit is seeking a people who will rise up in the love and power of Jesus and declare in God that He does not desire to destroy men's lives but to restore them. Where do you stand? Are you willing to allow the Lord to be a source of life and encouragement to this present generation or have you written it off? The eternal destiny of someone you know may well depend on your answer.