

Just a quick reminder. I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**”

Liberating the Book of Revelation is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, e-book format, and the *audible* version was recently released.

EP123 Revelation 14 verse 13 P2

In our last podcast we addressed this very odd statement where the Spirit said, *‘Blessed the dead who are **now** dying in the Lord from now on!’* “Yes, **now** says the Spirit, “so that they may in the **future** be caused to rest from their labors, for their deeds **now** follow with them.” Given the use of the *present* tense, we discovered that this is addressing those who are willing to let God put to death all that is in them that is spiritually dead and dying and which stands in opposition to Christ.

The idea is that if we are willing to put to let God put it all to death, then we will have rest, we will know rest, for we will no longer be striving to do things our way, to be good for God, to do it all right. Rather, we rest in what He has done and all that He will do in-and-through our lives.

To understand this further, we also begun to unpack Jesus’ statement regarding rest: *“Come to Me, all who are now feeling weary and have been caused to being heavy-laden, and I will in the **future** give you rest. You are commanded to take My yoke upon you, and you are commanded to learn from Me, for I **now** am gentle and humble in heart, and you will in the **future** find rest for your souls. For My yoke easy and My burden is **now** light.”*¹

First we must come, and **come** to Him. This requires us to leave behind the **ME**, the one whom we have always trusted with our lives. It requires us to take what He has to offer us – His yoke of control over our lives. We learned that our *willingness* to be yoked to Jesus, to be controlled by Him, is our exercise of faith. It is our active belief, our decision in the now to trust **Yahweh**. This only occurs when we come to realize that **the source matters, the source is everything!** “... **FOR WITHOUT HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING.**”

Then we discussed three ways that we learn: by example, by instruction, and everyone’s favorite, by experience. We can learn by the examples of the men and women of faith who have traveled this journey before us. We can learn by instruction as the Spirit instructs our hearts through the Word of God and through His leading. But it seems that most of us learn best by experience, and that is usually requires a lot of mistakes, a lot of pain, and a lot of trouble. But rest assured, once we learn through experience, we tend to never forget it.

And this brought us to our topic for this podcast.

¹ **Matthew 11:28-30**

THE WHY OF IT ALL

*“Come to Me, all who are now feeling weary and have been caused to be heavy-laden, and I will in the **future give you rest**. You are commanded to take My yoke upon you, and you are commanded to learn from Me, for I **now** am gentle and humble in heart, and you will in the **future find rest for your souls**. For My yoke easy and My burden is **now** light.”*

Jesus gives us the reasons **WHY** it is a very good idea to be yoked to Him (to let Him control the direction of our lives) and to let Him put His burden on our lives. He says that He is **now** gentle and humble in heart, He promises that His burden is **now** light, and that we will in the **future** find rest for our souls.

What is He really communicating?

The fact that He is gentle and humble in heart is meant to assure us that though we must walk through the shadow of the valley of death and die to all that is dead, and though that path feels quite often as if God is mean, cruel, unloving, and dismissive, He is not. Yes, He **MUST** do what is needed to lead us to the place of *rest*, if we are **willing**, and yes, that will mean the knife, the fire, the cross, and so many other means of putting to death that which is dead, but it all flows from His heart which is gentle and humble.

In other words, He will never force us down this path, He will entice us for sure, but ultimately it is up to us to decide if we are going to let Him cause us to be **willing**.

He knows that unless we die to that which is dead, we will ultimately die in the **Second Death** along with all those who are so proud of all they have done for Him, all in Jesus’ name.

The Burden

Jesus promises that His burden is **now** light – now! No matter what you are going through, no matter how difficult the circumstances, the burden that we **MUST** drag behind the chords that are connected to the yoke is light. And that is the beauty of **grace**.

All God desires from us is the **willingness** to let Him be our **I AM**, that is the glorious requirement of faith. If we are remotely willing to let Him, He will provide to us the **willingness** to choose to bear His yoke of control. *“For it **now** is God who is at **now** working in you both to **now** will and to **now** work for the sake of His good pleasure.”²*

We must never forget that **grace** is ALL about what He does for us and what He does in-and-through our lives as a result of our faith, our willingness to let Him be our **I AM**.

In the Future: Rest

Jesus promises that if we take upon our lives His yoke of control, if we let Him hold the reigns and direct our lives, that in the **future** we will know and experience *rest* or a peace of mind that is beyond anything we can imagine.

This notion of “*rest*” speaks of an outcome that addresses all the core needs of our soul: safety, security, stability, being seen or known, and assurance. It speaks of the absence of worry, anxiety, and fear. But it is a “**future**” experience because it is the outcome of our **willingness** to let Jesus be our **I AM**

² *Philippians 2:13*

in all things all the time.

It is the outcome of our taking **Step-2** where we dig down deep in our soul and chose to become that little child who is innately and wholly dependent upon their heavenly Father. Rest is the result of our letting Jesus lead us down the pathway of dying to what is dead, which ironically is the **ONLY** pathway that is **now** leading to life. This is the path which so few are **now** finding.³

It's God's Job

The other notable aspect of “*rest*” is that it communicates a lack of work or effort. This is the **KEY** to understanding the promise.

Transformation

Again, all God asks for is our faith, in effect, our **willingness** to let Him cause us to believe that He is our **I AM**. That is an extremely light burden, since all the work and effort fall on His back. He is **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**, the one who is responsible to make us holy. It is **NOT** our job; it's His. Our only job is to let Him causes us to be **willing** to let Him do His job.

We spend so much of our life stressing out about our failures and our weaknesses and our sins, but the truth is that we have no ability to fix any of it. Sure, the **ME** tells us that he can handle things, that he has it all under control, but the **ME** can't because our *flesh* is hostile to God, it does not now subject itself to the law of God, for it is now not even able, and those who are now being in the flesh cannot now be caused to please God.⁴

This is the reason why we need **Yahweh Yasha** to save us from our *flesh*, to save us from our sin of unbelief, to set us free us from the **ME**. This is the reason that we must first let Him cause us to be dying to that which is dead, so in the **future**, in this life, we can *rest* in Him and in His work.

Good Works

In addition, the **Codex** is clear that it is God who is wholly responsible for our good works. It is His job. After all, the fundamental truth of our faith is that **ONLY GOD IS GOOD**; therefore, it reasons then that only He can do good works.

This takes us way back to **Revelation 4** where the “... *the twenty-four elders will choose to fall down before Him ... and will cast their crowns before the throne.*” The “Elders” know and fully believe that **ONLY GOD IS GOOD!**⁵ They are fully convinced that they do not even deserve this amazing reward symbolizing their victory over the world and over the Beast. They know that Christ, the victor, always led them in victory.⁶ In casting their crowns before Him, they acknowledge that He is the one who enabled them and provisioned them for victory; they were just willing vessels. He was not just the **I AM**, but He is their’ **I AM**, their Lord God Almighty.

The Elders hold to the idea that when by faith we let Him possess us, He will do the will of the Father that is in heaven here on earth in-and-through our body. This is the *Design Point* of true Christianity.⁷ It

³ **Matthew 7:14**

⁴ **Romans 8:7-8**

⁵ **Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19**

⁶ **1 Corinthians 15:57**

⁷ See **Galatians 2:20; John 14:14**

will be His work, and therefore, He is the one to get the glory.

As King David and the Prophet Isaiah declared, “*I have no good besides You.*” “**Yahweh** you will grant us peace, for all we have accomplished is really from you.”⁸ The truth is that even our desire to obey God comes from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.⁹ Without the Spirit’s active involvement, our base nature would still desire, nay demand, our disobedience and self-sufficiency.¹⁰

In contrast, everything good (everything of any eternal value) comes from God and God alone. That is why if we ask anything in His name, **He will do it!** He will literally be the one who does the Father’s will. He will just use our bodies to accomplish those deeds (again, that is the *Design Point*).¹¹

And it is for all these good works that He has done, in-and-through the lives of the Elders, that they lay their crowns before Him and worship. Their victory is all due to His mercy and His grace (all that freely comes from His hands into our lives). Remember **grace** is a fixed equation, 100% Him and 0% us.

The book of *Haggai* makes it clear that that every attempt of God’s people to be good and do good by the “**works of their hands**” is, in the eyes of God, unclean or blemished.¹² Contrast that with the bondservants of Jesus Christ, the 144,000, who are deemed to be unblemished, for they washed themselves in the blood of the Lamb.

When we think we can “do good for God” in any aspect of our lives, we elevate ourselves to a place and a position that only **Yahweh** holds.

We are not the lord (the **Adonai**) of our own lives. We are not **Yahweh**. We are not the **I AM** (even though we like to feel that we are).

Just like Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet, we are created beings and we exist for His will and His pleasure. He is the one and only **Adonai El Shaddai**, the Lord our God Almighty. Hence, our life of faith is about trusting ourselves so completely to **Yahweh** that He is free to live in, possess, and work through our bodies such that when anyone meets us, they will have meet Jesus.

This is the pattern Jesus set forth for us when He told Thomas that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father.¹³ Anything but Jesus’ life in ours doing His good works will produce insufficient deeds, and the deeds that we do “for God,” no matter how well intentioned or how impactful, will be as filthy rags.¹⁴

**ONCE AGAIN, BOTH JUDE AND REVELATION TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE
VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND
ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD
TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.**

⁸ *Isaiah 26:12*. See also *Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 1:11; John 15:5; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17*

⁹ *Philippians 2:13*

¹⁰ *Galatians 5:16-17*

¹¹ See *John 14:14*

¹² *Haggai 2:10-14*

¹³ *John 14:9*

¹⁴ *Isaiah 64:6*

Thus, because we do not bear the responsibility to so good works of service for God, His burden is very light, and His yoke of control is very easy. He just wants us to be willing to let Him lead and to let Him do all that He needs to do to bring glory to His Father.

Rest & Unbelief

In the **Codex**, the Spirit connects rest and unbelief in an opposing relationship. To the extent that we do not believe that Jesus is our **I AM** (in whatever areas of our life), we will not know rest. But we must understand that the **DANGER** of “unbelief” is alarming. It falls under the idea that a little leaven leavens the whole lump.

In other words, “unbelief” is a poison that spreads through our life and touches on everything. It even has the potential, if left unchecked, to kill us, in the sense that it might just lead us to the **Second Death**. This was the thrust of the Spirit’s message in the book of **Hebrews** and His message is chilling.

Hebrews 4:1-12

Therefore, may we be caused to fear if, while a promise is now caused to remaining to enter His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

For indeed we **now** have had good news being preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, **because it was NOT caused to having been united by faith in those who had been hearing.**

For we who have been believing **now** choose to enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT IN THE **FUTURE** CHOOSE TO ENTER MY REST," although His works were caused to being finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; and again, in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT IN THE **FUTURE** CHOOSE TO ENTER MY REST."

Therefore, since it **now** is caused to remain for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news caused to have been preaching to them failed to enter **because of unbelief**, He again **now** fixes a certain day, "Today, "**now** saying through David after so long a time just as has been caused to be said before, "TODAY IF YOU MAY HEAR HIS VOICE, **DO NOT** HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So, there is now caused to remain a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God.

For the one who has been entering His rest has himself also desisted from his own works, as God did from His. Therefore, may we be diligent to enter that rest, so that any one may fall after the same example of unbelief.

God provided the example. When He completed His works of creation, He rested, for His works were complete. And since the **New Creation** has been imparted into our being, the literal Sanctuary (or holy

place) of the Spirit of God, He wants us, without exception, to cease from all our works of trying to be good for God and simply *rest* confidently knowing that all else is up to Him.

All He ever has needed from us is our **willingness**, everything else has always been up to Him. In His *agape* love, He has never been one to force His will on the personal sovereignty which He gave to us. Thus, it has always been up to us to be **willing** to let Him help us believe that He is the Lord our God Almighty, our **I AM**.

After all, if **ONLY GOD IS GOOD**, then only He can do the good works of the Father. It is all up to Him. Any other work is mere garbage, and entirely worthless, notwithstanding our good and sincere intentions.

The truth is that when we are busy trying to please God, trying to be good, trying to stop sinning, trying to do things right, trying to be a good witness, trying to serve God with our whole heart, trying to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and trying to love the brethren, **WE ARE ABIDING IN UNBELIEF**, for we still actively believe that we are the I AM, or that we have something, no matter how small, to offer to God.

BUT THAT IS ONE BIG FAT, GROSS, STINKY, SELFISH, DELUSIONAL LIE.

The **ALARMING** truth about all this is that if we persist in this unbelief, God will not force His way with us. Rather, He will agree with us and declare that "THEY SHALL NOT IN THE **FUTURE** CHOOSE TO ENTER MY REST," for the good news we have heard has not been united with faith. And like the Israelites who died in the wilderness, we too will know the death that comes from death, that which comes from the lack of dying to death.

Accompanying Deeds

*"... so that they may in the **future** be caused to rest from their **labors**, for their **deeds now follow** with them."*

Ok, we are tracking with that whole yoke and burden explanation of "rest," but then how does that make sense with this part about *labors* and *deeds*? Quite frankly it seems like double talk, and it is very confusing. Are we supposed to labor and perform deeds or not?

Let's sort this one out, keeping in mind our **context**. The Spirit is addressing how we can escape the trappings of the Beast, the trappings of the Me, and not be among those who end up worshipping the Beast. Such restraint is the perseverance of the holy ones who are now keeping the commandments of God, and their faith in Jesus, those who are dying to what is dead.

With that in mind, the word translated as "*labors*" is a noun and stems from a root word meaning to chop or to cut. By analogy, it stretches to this idea of weariness or toil from chopping. Thus, one of the main purposes of dying to that which is dead is so that we can *rest* from all the ridiculous chopping and cutting we have been doing. In other words, all the *labor* we have put into trying to do it right and to be good for God and for others because that is what good Christians do, just exhausts us, and wears us out.

For many, the labor of **legalism** is so heavy it burns them out. The expectations, judgments, and condemnations from others (all done in Jesus' name), and the same rising up from within themselves,

then becomes that tipping point which pushes them over the edge on to that slippery slope of apostasy. For no matter how hard they chop, no matter how hard they labor, they simply cannot do it right. And those who say they do, are just good at lying.

This becomes a serious problem because of the way God wired us. Few of us “labor” because it is the right thing to do, we labor, we chop and cut, because we want the rest, we want what God says He has for us (safety, security, stability, being seen or known, and assurance). Simply said, we want His blessing and so we try hard to get it. But the Spirit is confirming that pathway to rest is experienced when we stop all those labors of legalism, all those attempts at earning God’s blessing.

To better understand what the Spirit is communicating, let’s look at the end of the phrase, “for their **deeds now follow with them.**” The word translated as “deeds” is the Greek word “*ergon*” meaning to work or to act. And the word translated as “follow” means to accompany, in that the work and effort is not to be understood as being behind, but alongside.

Ok, thank you for all the clarifications, but what in the world does it all mean?

It means that there is a serious price to pay for walking the path of legalism. It weighs us down with exhaustion and the effort, the toil, is always with us, for the work never stops. We can never be good enough, we can never stop sinning enough, we can never love enough, serve enough, repent enough, witness enough, never, never, never, never, and so on.

It is like when you see someone who has had a very hard life, their face tells the story—they look worn, and the wrinkles cut deep. The effort they have put into surviving this life accompanies them, and it is undeniable.

The Church at Ephesus

When Jesus wrote to the seven churches, He mentioned to each one of them that He had known something unique that connects to that church. In other words, nothing is a surprise to Him, before whose eyes all is laid bare. He knows.

When He addressed the church at Ephesus, the church that was criticized for their legalism and resulting lack of *agape* love. He said, “I have known your **deeds and labors.**” Ephesus is the only church in which He used this phrase.

Paraphrasing, He told them, “I have known your work at chopping and cutting, fighting those false apostles, and the most amazing thing is that you have not even become exhausted with the labor. You just keep chopping and chopping and chopping.”

This was not a badge of honor, this was not a compliment, this was a criticism. Though seemingly well intentioned, they did what they *thought* God wanted them to do and not what God wanted them to do. As a result, they had gone apostate, in Jesus’ name. They literally abandoned their first love (*agape*), they had abandoned Christ, the one who is *agape* love, all in an attempt to uphold true Christianity. It is terribly and sadly ironic.

Jesus asked them to repent, or else. Sadly, history shows that they could not give up their legalism, and they choose the “or else.”

The Dead Who Are Dying Will Rest

To summarize this section, the protection from apostasy and following the path of destruction (the path of the Beast whose name is Destruction) comes when we learn to *rest*. This results from our *willingness* to be dying to that which is dead, to that which will kill us in the **Second Death**. This is the patient endurance of the holy ones, forsaking the **ME**, and coming to Jesus to let Him control our lives.

Rest is a certifiable promise from **Yahweh**, but it is found when we:

- **Come** to Jesus and let Him be putting to death the **ME**, thereby removing all those blasphemous names that we bear.
- **Take** upon ourselves His yoke of control and let go of the iron beam of legalism that has ruled over our lives like a brutal dictator and has left us exhausted and spent from all our labors and deeds.
- **Learn** that by example, instruction, and yes, experience, all He seeks from us is our *willingness* to let Him be our **I AM**, the rest is up to Him, in His timing. For if we are *willing*, He will be our safety, security, stability, and assurance, the One who sees us and knows us. And if we patiently endure, we will come know His rest.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up with probably the most anticipated event ever, and that is the rapture of the church and the judgment of those left behind. This next section will blow your mind, as the **Codex** is so clear in tying all the various pieces of text regarding the rapture into one section that will be crystal clear.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."