

Welcome to Calvary Chapel of Hilo

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885 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Sunday Morning - 9:00 A.M **COLOSSIANS 2:11-15 "COMPLETE IN CHRIST"**
Next Week – **COLOSSIANS 2:16-23 "AVOIDING THE ERROR OF LEGALISM"**
Wednesday Bible Study – 9:30 am **FIRST KINGS**

THE SECOND SYMBOL

The cross is the great symbol of Christianity. On steeples atop churches, covers of hymnals, lids for communion ware and lapel pins on Sunday jackets, it stands an awesome reminder of all that Jesus suffered. Jesus spoke of the cross as a symbol of Christian dedication. "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mark 8:34).

But Jesus also used another symbol for Christian commitment. "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me . . . My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matt. 11:29, 30). The yoke is a wooden harness tying two animals together to pull a load. Yokes are not usually painted on church buildings, or printed on the covers of Bibles, or worn as ornaments on neck-chains. Maybe they should be. The yoke as much as the cross is a symbol of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Paul W. Powell, in *The Complete Disciple* elaborates:

"The cross and the yoke symbolize for us the two different aspects of commitment. The cross is an instrument of death; the yoke is an implement of toil. The cross is the symbol of sacrifice; the yoke is the symbol of service. The cross suggests blood; the yoke suggests sweat . . . to be committed to Jesus Christ means that we are ready for either the yoke or the cross."

Let me suggest four lessons from the yoke:

SUBMISSION. "Take My yoke upon you." The Christian willingly submits to Jesus Christ as Lord and Master. "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." "Not my will but Thine be done."

OBEDIENCE: "And learn of me." The yoke suggests submission to a master who must be obeyed. Blessed is the man who "heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them."

SERVICE: "My burden is light." Compared to the burden of sin, the yoke of the Lord is easy. But the very idea of a yoke is that of pulling a load, of work, of service. Christians are to be ministers—servants. "Work for the night is coming."

FELLOWSHIP: "All ye that labor." We are not alone in Christ, but serving alongside those of like precious faith. Paul spoke of his "loyal yokefellow." A yoke harnesses two animals together so as to pull a load neither one could pull alone. "Bear ye one another's burdens."

As we follow Christ, let us take up our yoke as well as our cross, "serving the Lord."

Bible Illustrations— A Treasury of Bible Illustrations.

VICTORIOUS LIVING

J. Alistair Brown writes:

Walking through a park, I passed a massive oak tree. A vine had grown up along its trunk. The vine started small—nothing to bother about. But over the years the vine had gotten taller and taller. By the time I passed, the entire lower half of the tree was covered by the vine's creepers. The mass of tiny feelers was so thick that the tree looked as though it had innumerable birds' nests in it.

Now the tree was in danger. This huge, solid oak was quite literally being taken over; the life was being squeezed from it.

But the gardeners in that park had seen the danger. They had taken a saw and severed the trunk of the vine—one neat cut across the middle. The tangled mass of the vine's branches still clung to the oak, but the vine was now dead. That would gradually become plain as weeks passed and the creepers began to die and fall away from the tree.

How easy it is for sin, which begins so small and seemingly insignificant, to grow until it has a strangling grip on our lives.

But sin's power is severed by Christ, and gradually, as we yield daily to Christ, sin's grip dries up and falls away. *750 Engaging Illustrations.*

- The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle.
- The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came.

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