

"Our Burden Bearer"

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A.M.  
Bailey

Scripture Lesson: - Psalm 75. Entire Psalm.

Text: - Psalm 75: 7 & 8.

Introduction: - The world is burdened with distress and perplexity. Vast shadows of distress and uncertainty are over the entire world. Today we are witnessing the sad spectacle of nations stagger-beneath debt and yet building still larger armies and navies, and spreading rumors of another world catastrophe, which will blot out whole cities and perhaps nations.

Yes, the nations of earth are weighted down with many grievous and heavy burdens. About every remedy has been tried for the world's sickness, except the turning to the God of the nations. Men have sown to the wind, and have reaped the whirlwind. Hear the words of our text, "But God is the judge; he putteth sown one and setteth up another". For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same; but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of earth shall wring them out, and drink them."

We are today drinking the dregs from the wine cup of God's judgment. The threats of communism, atheism, international and racial hatreds, immorality, lawlessness, suicide, and cynicism hang as lowering clouds, storm clouds, over the earth. The threatening rumors of increasing catastrophe break at times upon us like the roar of thunder before a storm.

There is but one way to avert the storm and turn back the threatening clouds. We have trusted too long in chariots and horses. These ~~may~~ have failed us. There is but one hope for the world. What is it: It is a spiritual awakening that will sweep like the purifying gale of a north wind cleansing the atmosphere now laden with hate, suspicion, and misunderstanding. The Lord God of hosts can revive our waning civilization and usher in an era of good will on earth, if we will only turn to him and give him a chance. God is

saying to the nations today, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he will sustain thee."

## II.

Along with the burdens of the nations, we have the burdens of the individual. We have been carrying heavy loads in these days of stress and strain. Not even the rich have been exempt as is evidenced by the large number of wealthy people who have committed suicide within recent years. The number has been on the increase of those seeking refuge in suicide.

We are often tempted to think that our personal burdens are unusual. We may feel that no one else has such peculiar testings as have been thrust upon us. In our plight we may be tempted to self-pity. That is always an unwholesome thing. It will destroy our morale and is a forerunner of defeat. Life's burdens are too great for us to carry. Our strength is not sufficient. We need a helper, a "rock that is higher than I". Our arms are too short. Our courage has not sufficient metal to endure the weight of all the burdens of life which may be thrust upon it.

We have not been left helpless in our need. In Christ we find a burden bearer. He is all sufficient. He is able to do for us "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think". His arm is not shortened that he cannot save. No situation is beyond his reach. He not only is able to bear our burdens but he delights to bear them. He extends to us the urgent invitation to cast our burdens upon his. He looks with pity upon us as we stagger beneath the load, when he is ready to take the burden and carry it for us. "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved". Again he says in Matthew's gospel, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

The starting point for the solution of any difficulty is with God. If we make this the rule of our lives, we will have a way of escape.

When we forget God in the every day battle of life, then we have burdens that are too heavy to bear. People used to go to sleep at night with the knowledge of the presence of God; but they have stopped the reading of the Bible, going to church and praying. In a recent article Norman Vincent Peale noted the increasing use of sleeping pills in America. Since 1935 they have increased 1000 percent. One million <sup>pounds</sup> of sleeping pills were manufactured in 1951; 12, 000, 000 doses were taken by the American people every night. That was enough to put every twelfth American to sleep. The old poem written about this necessity to take something to dull our awareness and make our unworthy lives seem bearable, runs something like this; "Luminal is what you take for heartbreak- so they say. In another old and simpler day, our grandmothers used to pray; and they rose from their knees sure that God somehow would help them to endure the burdens of the day.

### III.

God does not always remove the burden. He may give us instead, strength to carry the burden. When Paul prayed for the thorn in his flesh to be removed, the answer was given, not in the removal of the thorn, but in grace given to endure it. Paul travelled the way of victory, even with a physical affliction, because in God he found a burden-bearer.

Some people are making the sad mistake of waiting until they get a job; or until they get well; or until they reach some desired material goal before they turn to God to serve him with the whole heart. Start with God today. Cast your burden upon him. Do not wait to get a job; do not wait to get well. Begin trusting him now, this very day. God's time is now, the living present. God can guide you. God can heal you. If your prayer for healing is not answered, God is able to give you grace that will help you to endure the affliction. Triumph while enduring affliction may even be a greater victory than the triumph of recovery. Give God a chance at your life.

If you have business difficulties, do not wait until business is good to trust God. Begin trusting him today. Take God into partnership with you in your business. God knows more about your affairs than you do. It may be that your affairs need some new approach or new angle of endeavor, to which none but God can guide you. If every business man in America would seek God first in his business, America would be saved from the dangers that confront her. When men lose faith in God they lose that well founded confidence which is essential to success.

Conclusion:- Have you problems? Every one has. Are you trying to bear them alone? Are you unhappy, frustrated or discouraged? Jesus says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." There is no rest in this troubled old world, except in him. Are you one of the many who are looking everywhere for rest and peace? Then turn to him. Abide in him. It is the secret of real life.

*It is only solution to our survival today. We know now Russia can bomb any point in the U.S. We are standing on edge of a precipice. Our leaders admit our doom may be nearer than we think. Some of them have even admitted they would turn over our country to the enemy to save it from bombing. I am not pessimistic I just want to warn you, help you see how desperately we need God. Don't wait till our Bibles & Churches are taken from us. Turn to him pray for help before the wrath of God descends on us.*