

(Matt. 11:25) - *“AT THAT TIME JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, I THANK THEE, O FATHER, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,”* - Our Savior prays to His Father thanking Him for His sovereign work both in the damnation of the wicked and the salvation of the elect (Rom. 9:21-23) - *“BECAUSE THOU HAST HID THESE THINGS FROM THE WISE AND PRUDENT.”* *“These things”* are truths concerning Christ’s Person, offices, and work of righteousness He came to accomplish, which were hidden from those who claimed to be intellectually and spiritually superior to others. Such are sinful, unregenerate people who proudly consider themselves wise and knowledgeable in the ways of salvation, righteousness, and eternal life. This is the state of all of us by nature as fallen in Adam and born spiritually dead and depraved (Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:14; cf. Judges 17:6; 21:25; Prov. 12:15; 14:12; 16:25). Unless the Lord intervenes and reveals Himself to us, we would all remain in that sinful state.

“AND HAST REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES” - These are God’s elect who are known as God reveals Himself to them as the God Who justifies the ungodly and saves sinners by His free and sovereign grace in Christ. He humbles us by showing us our sinfulness, deadness, and depravity, and causes us to see that, like a baby who relies totally on his/her parents for life, we are totally dependent upon Christ for ALL salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and life. He reveals how our complete salvation was (and is) conditioned on Christ and not on ourselves. Christ fulfilled all conditions to save us completely.

(Matt. 11:26) - Why does God hide the Gospel from some, leave them to their own foolishness, and yet reveal this truth to others? We know that the reason God reveals it to some is not because they are better than others (Rom. 9:10-16). We all deserve and have earned eternal damnation. But God has chosen some to save. Why? We have no ability with our puny finite minds to answer this question. But Christ gives us the only answer to this mystery - *“EVEN SO, FATHER: FOR SO IT SEEMED GOOD IN THY SIGHT.”* The answer is found only in the sovereign, mysterious purpose of God to glorify Himself in the salvation of His chosen people by His grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. The sovereignty of God is His absolute, independent right to deal with and dispose of all His creatures according to the good pleasure of His will (Psa. 135:5-6; Isa. 55:11; Matt. 20:15; Rom. 9:10-24). There are so many things about the mysterious purpose of the Lord that puzzle us, but we are assured that the Judge of all the earth will do what is right in His own eyes (Gen. 18:25).

(Matt. 11:27) - *“ALL THINGS ARE DELIVERED UNTO ME OF MY FATHER”* - This could be translated, *“All things HAVE BEEN delivered (handed over, entrusted) unto Me of the Father”* because the verb tense points to a past act. This speaks both of the eternity of the Son as well as the purpose of God to exalt Him based on His accomplishment of the redemption of His people. On this ground, the Father has committed everything and everyone unto the hands of the victorious Savior (John 3:35; 5:27; 17:1-2; Rom. 14:8-9; Php. 2:5-11). Christ has redeemed and secured the complete salvation of all those beloved of the Father and chosen unto salvation, and, therefore, He has been rewarded with universal authority.

“AND NO MAN KNOWETH THE SON, BUT THE FATHER; NEITHER KNOWETH ANY MAN THE FATHER, SAVE THE SON, AND HE TO WHOMSOEVER THE SON WILL REVEAL HIM” - Those who know, believe, and rest in Christ, the Son of God, those who submit to His righteousness as the only ground and hope of salvation, those who have repented of their dead works and idolatry, are those to whom the Father has revealed Him by His Spirit through His Word (John 6:44-45). Those who know the Father as both a just God and a Savior, as a righteous Judge AND a loving, merciful, gracious Father, those who know that their acceptance with Him is on the ground of the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death as the Surety, Substitute, and

Redeemer of His people, are those to whom the Son has revealed Him by His Spirit through His Word. Without this revelation, no sinner will come to the Father through Christ.

(Matt. 11:28) - *“COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST”* - This is the commandment of the Savior to His people whom He has sent His Spirit with the Gospel to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11; Rom. 1:16-18; 10:13-17). They have been made acutely aware of their sinfulness and depravity and have been made to labor under the heaviest burden of sin realizing that there is absolutely no hope of salvation in themselves (2 Chron. 33:12-13; Isa. 6:5; 64:5-6; Dan. 10:8; Luke 5:8; 15:17-21; 18:13; 23:40-41; Acts 2:37; 16:29-30). They cry, *“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?”* (Psa. 130:1-3), and *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* (Rom. 7:24). Through the same Gospel, the Spirit sets before them Christ in the glory of His Person and the power of His finished work as the only way of salvation from sin and the only way of righteousness before God (Psa. 130:4-8; Rom. 3:10-26; Php. 3:3-9). The Lord promises spiritual and eternal rest for all who come to Him for salvation. He will never turn any of them away as they are His people, chosen by the Father and given to Him before the world began. They are those for whom He died and arose again, to whom He sends His Spirit to quicken, and for whom He ever lives to intercede (John 6:37-45). This “rest” is the peace and assurance, quietness of conscience, in that that they are saved by His grace, justified in His righteousness imputed, and eternally loved by the Father in Christ (Isa. 32:17-18; Rom. 8:32-39; Heb. 10:14-22).

(Matt. 11:29) - *“TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME”* - All who come to Christ are made willing by the Holy Spirit (Psa. 110:3) to be saved by grace alone and to believe on Christ for their salvation, reconciliation with God, and righteousness. They willingly submit to His reign and devote themselves to Him alone. They walk in the light of His Word (Psa. 119:105), learn and bow to His revealed will and serve Him with delight (Psa. 100:2). All who draw near to Christ are yoked (united, joined) to Him. The Father joined us to Christ in the covenant of grace, and the Spirit joins us to Christ when we believe in Him. We are taught by Him and of Him when the Spirit uses the Word to teach us and guide us into all truth concerning Him and our salvation by Him (John 16:13-15). We learn that our Savior is *“MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART,”* which describes His condescension and humility to become incarnate and suffer unto death for our sins (Php. 2:6-11), so that we are to desire to be like Him (Php. 2:1-5). *“AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS”* - As we learn more of Christ and follow Him in His Word, we find more and more rest for our souls. Our salvation is ALL OF CHRIST Who saves, nourishes, preserves, and Who will bring us to glory, not by our labors and efforts, but by His alone.

(Matt. 11:30) - *“FOR MY YOKE IS EASY”* - This is not to imply that the Christian life is an easy life. Every true believer lives in a warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil. But being joined with Christ assures us that the victory has been won for us by Him (John 16:33; Rom. 7:24-25; Rev. 12:10-12). We are confident of our Savior so much that we can go through the struggles of life in faith being assured of our victory in and by Him (2 Tim. 1:12). *“AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT”* - The yoke and burden of the law is harsh and unbearable for a sinner. The law requires a perfect righteousness that we cannot attain (Rom. 3:10-20). To preach salvation conditioned on sinners keeping the law is a weight that no sinner can bear (Acts 15:10). But the burden that God places on His people in Christ is a burden of grace, love, and gratitude, knowing that His grace, love, and power will keep us safe and bring us to glory.