

Then we have the supreme example in our Lord Jesus Himself. “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me ; for I am meek and lowly in heart; ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **(Matt.11:28-29)**

Our Saviour bore that yoke of submission to the Father, it brought rest to His soul, and would also to those who would take His yoke upon themselves.

How proper it is when we who are in a God given place of instructing others, or “placing burdens” upon others, if they can see in us, the blessed rest of soul we ourselves have experienced in the bearing of that same yoke.

Paul could enjoin a young Timothy to “Fight the good fight of faith” **(1 Tim. 6:12)** and say at the close of his own life, “I have fought a good fight,...I have kept the faith.” **(2 Tim. 4:7)**

In these last days, may we seek to help others to take up their burden, by providing an example for them in our own lives. “For every man shall bear his own burden” **(Galatians 6:5)**

H. Short 12/06

# A WORD ON BURDEN PLACEMENT

“They that bore burdens, with those that loaded”

(Nehemiah 4:17)

In a day of "distress" when what God so values, is in a pitiable condition, there is an important work to be done in seeking to help those who desire the good of that which God values. "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. 13:12) God had a very special interest in the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of abundant provision. But it all came into a waste land, its most important city, and province, was in "great affliction and reproach". (Neh.1:3)

To make it worse, this was due to the disobedience of His people. Some took an interest in it, returned and built. Christians build in the church. (1

### Cor 3:1)

Amongst those few, there was a class of people who put burdens on others so that those who bore the burdens could help with the building of the wall. This, we will see, was an important work in itself, especially so because those carrying the burdens were in a weakened condition. "The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed..." (4:10).

I would like now to consider some who carried on this responsibility in the New Testament, when there were conditions of weakness, and in some cases ruin. We hear the cry of the Spirit of God entreating in such conditions to "Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready (about) to die." (Rev. 3:2) It is precious to see the One Who makes this cry, is the very One who strengthens and equips the servants for this task. "strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph.3:16) We see in this portion an example to follow, for those who place burdens upon others. This is not a wrong work, it is an important one. The example to follow is, "I will put upon you none other burden." (Rev. 2:24) We must not "overload" any.

Many occupy the position of burden placement. Parents, masters, teachers, prophets, are among a few. I particularly have in mind those who place burdens upon God's children. First I will recall our minds to bad examples. But these principles apply to all who place burdens upon others.

"The scribes and Pharisees sit (set themselves down) in Moses' seat ...they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." (Matt.23:2-4)

Here we find a "first" principle of instruction for those in the place of placing burdens upon others. Before instructing others in what they should be doing, there should be a clear example in our own lives, that we have also been a burden bearer in the matter we are enjoying others to carry. We enter into the circumstances that we are teaching others to do, and are somewhat aware, through personal experience, of what we are placing on others.

### 15:10)

"Now therefore, why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear." (Acts

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." (1 Cor. 3:2, see also Heb.

### 5:12)

In teaching the saints of God, or in other applications as well, it is important we not seek to place on weaker ones that which they are not spiritually up to. An understanding of the day in which we live and the weakened condition in which the saints are found is needed. If we ourselves are, indeed, up to "meat".

### (Rom. 14:15)

The word is "Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died." The conscience, and condition, of the weak must be considered in this work. The Apostle nourished with milk first, knowing what the dear saints could bear. He was one who was "sober...for your cause." (2

### Cor:5:13)

This is especially precious in view of the fact that these were weak, because of their own failure much like those in Nehemiah's day, and of our own also.