THE GREAT INVITATION
Matt. 11: 28 - 30

Introduction:
1. In this invitation we have evidence of the Lord's deity.
   (1) No mere man would have set himself up as a source of spiritual blessings -- Eph. 1:3
2. The blessings promised in this invitation:
   (1) It is rest from the POWER of sin.
      a. Sin is a cruel slave Master, driving the sinner on to more and greater sins -- II Tim. 3:13
   (2) Rest from the POLLUTION of sin
      a. Sin is a defiling thing -- Rev. 21:27; Tit. 1:15
   (3) Rest from the PRACTICE of sin -- Gal. 1:4; John 17:15
   (4) Rest from the PENALTY of sin -- Rom. 6:23
   (5) It is rest from the PRESENCE of sin -- I Thess. 5:22
      a. Sin is a revolting thing which the righteous abhor -- Rom. 12:9
3. This invitation is to all men and none are excluded.
4. Let us study some things implied in the invitation.

I. IT IS IMPLIED MAN IS SEPARATED FROM GOD.
   1. Why is man separated from God?
      (1) Some teach that he is born away from God.
      (2) The Bible does not teach man is born away from God.
         a. Children are born pure -- Matt. 18:3
         b. Sin is not inherited -- Ezek. 18:20; Acts 17:29; Heb. 12:9
         c. Sin is transgression of the Law -- I John 3:4
         d. When one sins his sin SEPARATES HIM from God -- Isa. 59:1 - 2
   2. What is man's condition who is away from God.
      (1) He is without hope -- Eph. 2:12
      (2) He is lost -- II Thess. 1:8 - 9

II. IMPLIES, MAN MUST COME, NOT GOD
   1. Man departed from God -- Isa. 59:1 - 2
   2. Man needs to be reconciled to God, NOT God to man -- Eph. 2:16; II Cor. 5:20
III. MAN HAS THE ABILITY TO COME TO GOD

1. Some teach man cannot come till God gives him "enabling grace or power".

2. If man could not come of his own will, and make his own choice in the matter, Jesus would not have invited him to come.

3. Passages that show that man can come -- Acts 2:40; Matt. 7:21; Matt. 23: 37; Rev. 22:17

4. No example in the New Testament of one receiving enabling grace or power.

IV. GOD IS WILLING TO RECEIVE MAN WHEN HE DOES COME.

1. Man does not have to beg God to get willing to save him.


V. GOD WILL BLESS HIM WHEN HE COMES

1. Remission of sins -- Acts 2:38; 3:19; Mark 16:16

2. Adds him to the church -- Acts 2:47

3. All spiritual blessings -- Eph. 1:3

4. Heaven in the after awhile -- John 14:1 - 6

VI. ALL MEN COME

1. The young -- Eccl. 12: 1

2. The bad -- I Tim. 1:15

3. The old


5. All responsible persons -- Rom. 3:23

VII. IT IS IMPLIED IF ONE DOESN'T COME HE STANDS CONDEMNED

1. II Thess. 1: 8 - 9

VIII. IMPLIES NOW IS THE TIME TO COME

1. Now is the acceptable time -- II Cor. 6:2

2. Before the heart becomes hardened -- Heb. 3:13

CONCLUSION

1. Why men do not come:

   (1) They think the yoke is hard; obedience is hard

       a. Prov. 13:15 -- "The way of transgressors is hard...

   (2) Pleasure -- II John 2: 15 - 17

   (3) Indifference

~Donald Townsley (Underwood Heights, AL  1974; Grandview, KY  1970)