

# **The Yoke of Christ**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 9:19-31.

B. Paul became a Christian on the road to Damascus, but he did not begin living the full Christian life until sometime after that.

II. To become a Christian, one must simply come unto Him without qualification.

III. However, one cannot really live the Christian life until one has taken upon himself the yoke of Christ.

IV. Paul proclaimed the Lordship of Jesus Christ, which is the fundamental declaration of the Christian faith.

A. This truth is fundamental to the new birth.

B. An understanding of the fact that Jesus is Lord results in the new birth. (Romans 10)

V. Paul also proved from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

A. Jesus is everywhere throughout the Old Testament.

B. Paul had a great hunger to reach his own people. (Romans 9)

VI. Paul's most meaningful experience was being lowered over the wall in a basket.

A. Paul began to learn that everything is loss for the excellence of Jesus Christ here. (Philippians 3)

B. The curriculum that every Christian must learn is that he only lives to be an instrument of Jesus Christ.

VII. God has Paul removed from Jerusalem because he is to be the Apostle to the Gentiles and not the Jews. (Acts 22)

A. God did not need Paul.

B. All God could use was Himself working through Paul.

C. Paul had to learn the essential lesson of the Christian life to rest upon God.

D. God does not need our abilities--He needs our availability.

E. Paul learned the essential message that without Christ he could do nothing.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the relationship between the Lordship of Christ and the new birth? What is the Lordship of Christ?

---

---

2. What was Paul's great lesson from being lowered down a wall in a basket according to the speaker? Explain.

---

---

3. In what ways have you failed to show dependency upon God? What can you trust God for today that you normally rely upon your own self-efforts for?

---

---