## Christians Unabridged Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 11:28-30.
- B. The Christian life falls into two perceptible stages.

1. The initial act which the life of Christ begins and brings about commitment—a contact that leads to commitment.

2. The second act is an invitation to partnership with Christ—a control that leads to discovery.

II. A contact that leads to commitment.

A. You are a Christian not because you go to a church or subscribe to a creed but because you come to know Jesus Christ.

B. The invitation is given to two classes of people—those who are weary and heavy laden.

1. This has nothing to do with the way one earns their living.

2. This is to those who are trying to do well.

C. Rest comes by the individual realizing that what he desperately is seeking to do, Jesus Christ has done in our place.

- 1. If He has paid it then there is nothing left to pay.
- 2. However, there are demands that are left over that make us twitch.

III. A control that leads to discovery.

A. We have no right to run our own affairs.

B. We are asked to allow Christ to control our affairs and make us redeemers.

- C. The results of yielding to His love.
  - 1. We begin to learn and understand the secrets of life.
  - 2. We learn the secret of humility, which is inner beauty.
  - 3. We can find rest of soul.
- D. The yoke of Jesus Christ makes life worth living.

## **Application questions:**

1. What is the relationship between the two perceptible stages of the Christian life?

2. What are the positive results of these stages? Why is stage one left wanting by itself?

3. What affairs are you not turning over to Jesus? Make a list, and in prayer surrender this one by one.