

The Greatest Invitation You'll Ever Receive

Intro: All of us receive invitations to do various things from time to time. We may be invited to witness and celebrate the wedding of a friend or relative. We may be invited to a graduation ceremony of a young person from high school or college. Sometimes we are invited to social occasions like a birthday party or potluck dinner. Occasionally I've known of people who were invited to visit the White House and be honored for some accomplishment. That would be considered by many to be the greatest invitation one could receive.

But there is one invitation greater than all—the greatest invitation you'll ever receive—the invitation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The invitation word in the Scripture is the word “come;” and in the gospels we hear that word on the lips of the Savior again and again.

Jesus invites us to...

Come and find rest

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30)

Jesus invites us to come to Him to find rest from the burden of oppressive legalism and the burden of oppressive lawlessness (sin) by letting him be our teacher.

Come and be satisfied

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

Only Jesus can give us the spiritual nourishment that gives spiritual life.

Come and find direction (follow)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)

Or as Jesus put it to the rich young ruler, “... come, follow Me.”” (Mark 10:21)

He will be not only our teacher but also our example of how to live. He'll show us the way.

As disciples of Jesus we not only enjoy the blessings of His forgiveness and guidance now, we also have the hope to receive one last invitation:

Come and inherit

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ (Matthew 25:34)

Jesus invites us to be His fellow-heir in the eternal kingdom of God, eternal life in the presence of the Creator.

But we must come on Jesus’ terms:

“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. ‘It is written in the prophets, ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.” (John 6:44–45)

The Father has given us the information we need to believe in Jesus and confess Him before others. The Father has taught us of the need to repent and be baptized.

Jesus summarized that response in the Great Commission: Mk. 16:16

Peter preached it his gospel sermon in Ac. 2:37-38.

To those who accept His invitation Jesus gives this assurance:

“All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.” (John 6:37)

In the Revelation, having given a glorious picture of the heavenly Jerusalem, we are invited to be one of its eternal inhabitants:

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” (Revelation 22:17)

Some of the saddest words in Scripture are those of Jesus to those who received the invitation and did not respond:

“and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.” (John 5:40)

I hope tonight is the night when you will accept that invitation of the Lord.