Galatians 5:1 (NIV) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*****"A yoke is that huge wooden beam that bind two oxen together when they plow... Wherever they go they go together. Sometimes we're like that with sin."* (MacDonald Pg. 129) I remember thinking through the fact that Jesus invites me to join Him in the yoke. What I had not put together was the part that in order to accept the invitation to join Jesus in His yoke I have to turn away from the yoke of slavery to sin. I cannot do this alone. Before I can join Him in the yoke I have to ask Him to break the yoke which has me in bondage to sin.

Life Application Bible Notes: *"Jesus frees people from all these burdens. The rest that Jesus promises is love, healing, and peace with God, <u>not the end of all labor</u>. A relationship with God changes meaningless, wearisome toil into spiritual productivity and purpose."*

PRAYER: Lord, I long to join You in the yoke and to walk side by side with You and to work with You. Please keep me from going back to any other kind of yoke which would make me a slave to sin.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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