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YOUTH AND YOKES

Lamentations 3:27

22-27

INTRODUCTION

The text this morning is taken from the Old Testament. It is just like a piece of gold shining in the midst of a pile of trash. Here is a sparkling truth. Jeremiah has always

book, and indeed it must have been written with all the details of the terrible. The book consists of five separate directions, and 2, and 4 contain each of them 22 verses of the Hebrew alphabet. And Chapter 5 also has 22 verses and Chapter 3 has 66 verses arranged in order of the alphabet.

**Matthew 11:25-30**

A young boy went out into a barnyard to play. While he was playing, he noticed an old-fashioned ox-yoke hanging on the side of the barn. It was very heavy, but he discovered he could lift it. So he got it down and dragged it out into the barnyard where he managed to slip one end of it over the head of a calf. Then to add to the fun, he put his own head through the other end of the yoke.

This was more fun for the boy than for the calf. The calf let out a bellow, and began to drag the boy across the barnyard. As the boy was being dragged along, he held on to the yoke for dear life to keep from being strangled by it, and with all the lung power he could muster, he yelled for his Dad. "Dad", he yelled, "come and catch us, we're running away."

The world is always trying to get us to put our head into its yoke. "Yoke up with me," says the world, "and I will show you what freedom really is." Then it begins to drag us toward greater and greater permissiveness and license. The first thing we know, it is dragging us toward disillusionment, heart-break and despair. In the end, it drags us to death without hope. We cannot get out of the yoke of sin by ourselves. That is why God sent his Son into the barnyard, yet, into

Here is the illustration of an ox and his yoke. This figure is tied in with that of the youth. If the ox is trained to the yoke when he is young, he will be useful. If however, the owner does not break him to the yoke when he is young, at best it will be a very difficult job when he is mature.

So with the human race. Bearing the yoke in youth trains and seasons for the hard tasks. Weighty responsibilities, stinging defeats, sorrows, joys, successes - youth are plastic. They may be easily adapted and shaped and given

direction. If this is neglected in youth, problems are ahead.

calls  
 Youth is the time of ~~XXXX~~, of challenges, choices, training, and

This week across our country, thousands of young people graduated from high school and college. Mission accomplished, the task finally completed. They politely sat through a commencement speaker who would urge them to live the good life. Then they got their degrees and they celebrated. It was an important time for them and well it should be. But I wonder, if you had a chance to speak a word to them what would you say? What would you want to challenge them and leave them with?

People like me think a lot about things like that, just in case we ever get a chance to do it. As I have thought about it, I think I would like to ask them a question. What was it all for? Why did they spend all of that time and money getting an education? There are many who don't like to go to school at all. Why is it important for them to go to school? Now that they are graduates, what now?

That's an important question that I think is often unanswered, or not answered well. We talk about the fact that education is to prepare us to handle life, but what is life to be handled for? What's the purpose and the meaning of it all? Sadly, too many young people don't think too strongly about that and too many of us don't either. The high rate of suicide among young people, the high rate of alcohol and drug addiction, the terribly high number of people who are just plain miserable inside are evidences that somewhere along the line, people have not discovered what life is for. They have not found any meaning and purpose in what they do or in what they are. It's a question that must be answered. What is it all for? Education, life, what is it to add up to?

In using the figure of the ox bearing the yoke, there are two or three words that perhaps would aptly describe this that we might use in this sermon today. Putting the yoke on the ox means discipline. As he bears the yoke, he can be given proper direction. And as he bears the yoke, he will also reach his destiny. Therefore, let us consider these three things in connection with youth and yokes.

### I. Disciplines

Disciplines means mental and moral training, ~~xxx~~ education, subjection to control. Military regulation, to train to obedience.

Bearing the yoke in youth does all the definition involves, because the text declares "It is good for a man ~~if~~ that he bear the yoke in his youth."

Consider the yoke of education. Youth is a period to put on this yoke. Innumerable are those ~~xx~~ who look back and rue the day they threw off this yoke, and they said, "No more school for me. This is not the place for me." However, position and power and usefulness could have been theirs.

Consider those on the other hand who sought to bear the yoke of education. Abraham Lincoln, a poor fatherless boy. He did manual labor all day and studied at night solving his math problems on a wooden shovel. He got ready for the opportunity, and it came and he siezed it, and this was the path from the log cabin to the Whitehouse.

Think about another president, President Hoover. He did not have money to pay his board while in college. He waited on the tables of wealthy students, and he worked his way g through college. We wonder what, if anything, those wealthy students ~~xx~~ have achieved that he served at the table. Now, the Vice-President to Mr. Hoover, Mr. Curtis, whose ancestors lived in Indian wig-wams, battled with poverty, wrestled with difficulties, and landed in the U..S. Senate

and then to the U.S. Vice-presidency.

Illustrations could be multiplied. Mr. Wannemaker pushing a go-cart through the streets of Philadelphia was on his way to the position of the greatest merchant of his time, and we might add, one of the greatest Christians of his day.

The discipline of afflictions and handicaps. It is good for youth to surmount these and the compelling history which we have before of the characters who made this history should help us in the matter of discipline. Have you ever thought about Joseph who sprang from Egypt's prison to Egypt's throne? Did you ever think about Parker B. Wilson who climbed from the home of a drunken father to the Vice-presidency of the United States? Did you ever think about John Bunyan who wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" while he was in Bedford jail? Or about Paul who wrote his letters to the Phillipian Christians while in prison? Or Pasteur who made the foundation for modern medicine, struggled perhaps the latter part of his life from the time he was 40 years old throughout the rest of his life handicapped by a paraletic stroke? Henry M. Stanley who was honored by the world and buried in Westminster Abbey was brought up in a poor house - what they called an "alms house".

Helen Keller, handicapped by blindness, imprisoned by dumbness,

and chained by deafness has been one of the world's most radiant souls.

There was an article in the information bulletin giving advice concerning discipline, and it was just the reverse. It was advice to young people to be kind to their parents. It might help the generation gap and the article was a change of pace because it suggested ~~xxx~~ teenagers <sup>to</sup> how they could get along with their parents.

First, don't be afraid to speak their language. Try using strange sounding phrases like, "I'll help you with the dishes", and "Yes sir," and "Yes ma'am."

Try to understand their music. Play Glen Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" on the stereo until you become accustomed to the sound.

Be patient. When you watch your dieting Mother sneaking salted nuts, don't show your disapproval. Tell ~~xxxx~~ her you like fat mothers.

Encourage them to talk about their ~~xxxx~~ problems. Try to keep in mind the things like earning a living and ~~xxxx~~ paying off the mortgage seem important.

Be tolerant of their appearance. When your Dad gets a haircut, don't feel personally humiliated.

If they do something you consider wrong, let them know it's their

behaviour you dislike, not themselves. Remember, parents need to feel that they are loved.

Now this (little amusing) thing about advice certainly gives us some guidance in the matter of discipline, and all youth need discipline. And overcome the handicaps that are given you. A student in a midwestern university who when his name was called to stand up, replied, "I would like to sir, but I have not stood on my feet since I was four years old." That made such an impression on the entire university that when he received his degree four years later, he received such cheers as his college generation had never heard.

Take the example of great characters in history of the leading nations and these great names, like Lloyd George of England, Joan of Arc of France, ~~Six~~ Gervonna Rolla of Italy, Daniel O'Connell of Ireland, Robert Burns of Scotland, Lincoln of America. You will find that all of these had handicaps, had obstacles in their youth seemingly impossible to overcome. Now it was good for them that they bore the yoke in youth.

Are you having to struggle? Is the family dependent on your labors?

Are you working to pay your way through college? Do you consider this a blockade in your road? Then mount it. Make it a stepping stone. The young person who

isn't bearing the yoke is floating on the ~~stream~~ stream of circumstances.

Really, he is skating on thin ice and will perhaps fall in the whirlpool eventually.

The matter of discipline should lead youth to take the yoke and

remember the creator in the days of youth, before the evil days come.

Someone asked Mr. Winnemaker, "How is it that you can be the greatest

merchant in the world, postmaster of the U.S., and at the same time, the

superintendent of the largest Sunday School in the world?" He replied at

that time, "Because 54 years ago I pinned all on this promise: Seek ye

first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall

be added unto you."

II Second, direction. Now, if the yoke is placed on the oxen when

he is young and he gets accustomed to it, he works in it, it helps him in the

direction that he is to go to accomplish something for his master. The same

thing is true in a young person. It helps him to head in the right direction.

And the great problem in youth is not really making a living, but is making a

life.

*Phil. Chellis - lost 19 games - wore caps backwards trying to turn things around -*

(Keep in mind) that you must be facing the right direction, and it's

This is the decision that all of us will have to make at some point in our lives. Whose kingdom will we serve? Will we strive to bring the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven or will we strive to try to bring about our own earthly kingdom? That is always going to be the struggle. Who shall we serve? God or ourselves?

all  
In Tennessee, I was talking to a high school girl who was about to graduate. I asked, "What do you plan to do now?" She said, "Well, my daddy wants me to go to the University of Tennessee and study to become a lawyer." "What does your mother want?" "Well, my mother wants me to stay at East Tennessee University so I will be close to home." "What do you want to do?" She said, "I don't want to go to school at all. I want to get a job." I was young then and still a little bit cantankerous, so I asked her a question, "Well, I've heard what your father wants and what your mother wants and what you want, let me ask you this. What do you think God wants you to do?" She gave me a puzzled look and said, "You know, I haven't thought too much about that."

I feel this is the way it is in the lives of far too many. When it comes to making a decision about what we will do with our lives, we don't really try to discover what God might want us to do. Talking with people about what they want to make of their lives, I hear a lot of people say they want to become rich, or they want to be a success in their work, or they want to have fun, but I don't hear too many people say, "Well, I want to try to bring peace in the world. Or I want to try to end poverty and hunger. I want to stop injustice and make the world a better place for all. I want to be a missionary and witness for Christ everywhere I can." I don't hear that too much. Too many make the commitments to serve their own kingdom, and not the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is based on brotherhood and love and hope and peace and faith. Our kingdom is based on money and success and power. Which will it be? Every one of us has to make that choice. Will we serve God or will we serve ourselves? There is a great deal of importance in what we choose. It will be probably the most important decision we will ever make in our lives.

a few years back in history during his dictatorship, some youth

Christians said they would not be obedient to his government. They would

not disobey God. And they passed a resolution. And these Christians sang,

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, a bulwark never failing." And when Hitler

demanding the pastors to sign an unqualified oath of allegiance ~~to~~ not to God

but to Hitler, seven thousand refused to sign their names to his statement.

They did sign this statement however; "We will go to prison or suffer any

punishment before we will sign this oath." Their heads were up, and they were

facing in the right direction.

Youth must make a decision, whether we are going to follow the

leader or follow the mob. Now people can manipulate you, and youth get

manipulated. And many times they say exactly what adults want them to say.

We see this often in the trends and the things today that we have, but we must be able to recognize that there is no sincerity in some of the ways in which people would direct you today. I was rather amused at some speaker who was talking about how he was going to communicate and get in line with the trends of the world and the situation of the world today, and so he was going to grow him some sideburns, and he was going to grow them way down, and then somebody said to him, "That won't be too good for your business." "Oh well," he says, "I'll cut one side off" and he says, "and when I'm doing business I'll turn this side to the people I'm doing business with." And then he says, "I'll turn this side when I'm speaking with the students and when I'm trying to deal with the students." "Well," his friend said to him, "you would be a hypocrite." And he said, "No, that's scriptural. Turn the other cheek."

Our direction is important. We may be raised on T.V. sets, on tape recorders and radio sets, but the real thing about direction is that nobody has ever said, "I like you as you are." In other words, the youth today in their direction, the problem is not ecology. I don't think the problem is sideburns or fads. I think the real problem is that youth desires direction, they are real flesh and blood persons, and they want to know that God loves them, and

adults have forgotten Christ -  
" " " Not been sincere

Leading youth in church training - Seminar, Nashville 55 Board - ~~un-churches~~  
youth gone reasons drop out - 10 losing youth at jr. High level rather  
than High School - one problem no adults want to train to work with  
youth & build a bridge of love that will lead them  
to the Lord Jesus Christ.  
that you love them.

I have a feeling that every youth is concerned about his direction  
as to whether he is going to the promised land, or whether he is going to the  
wilderness. And quite often we hear people say to the young people, ~~xxx~~ "Get  
involved, ~~xxxx~~ and that's going to solve all your problems. You just get  
involved." Or we hear sometimes that the young people are ignorant and dumb  
and do not know their mind.

But the church must give them love and this will be the help to  
direction.

Now, I am aware that there must be struggle if we are going to bear  
this yoke. I remember reading a story about a little girl who found a cocoon  
and somebody had told her that there were butterflies within these football  
shaped objects. And so she cut the end off so that she could make this  
discovery, and also so she said, "I can let the butterfly come out." Now, the  
butterfly did come out, but the butterfly died." Because the butterfly did not  
get a chance to struggle, to make his own way.

This is the same thing with youth. There must be a certain amount  
of struggle in finding direction with the yoke, and this must be voluntarily  
taken ~~on~~ on. Your (neck) must be in that yoke. And this is the best freedom

that you will find.

I don't think much of the inscription on the tombstone which the man had put: "I am free at last, I am free at last, Praise God, I am free at last." Now this freedom comes with a struggle, and it comes because you want this to ~~happ~~ happen.

And youth must take the yoke of Jesus Christ. That wonderful hymn, "I need thee every hour" expresses it. And the lady who wrote that did so while she was doing her housework. She was overcome by God's great goodness, and she sat down, and she wrote that poem, "I need thee every hour."

An aimless life is a useless life. There must be great high purpose in life for you. Henry Ford had it in his heart to make something that even the poorest man could own. He dreamed about this, and he had a purpose and a direction. The wrong thing in a man's heart will make him a thief, but the right thing will make him a preacher. And out before you are two roads that are leading out into the distance. One goes down into the mud the other goes uphill.

I read about the - an airliner that crashed outside of Atlanta, and the investigators revealed that the pilot was flying too low. We must

have direction and have the pathway of ~~z~~ our life ~~fx~~ with our trust and our hope on Jesus Christ. The story of the dog that started to run a deer, he soon turned to chase a fox, presently he was trailing to squirrel, he turned to run a rabbit, and finally pursued a field rat, and found himself barking into a rat hole in the middle of the field, while all around him was an abundance of great game. Now many lives are like that: no aim, no direction, no perserverance. The important question is: Where are you going? The question is a question of direction, and when your life is in the yoke, you will be working in the right direction. Fred Smith said the good things in life have to be paid for in advance, while the evil things we do are paid by generally on the installment plan. David saw this as Nathan the prophet counceled with him. Sometimes the suffering is never known to the rest of the world, but the still small voice of conscience whips us, flays us, and burns us, until we cry with Cain of old, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." Young people, there must be direction in your life.

A woman, a young woman, announced her wedding. Someone asked her, of course they were thinking about the ~~xx~~ dollar mark, "How much is he worth?" She said, "A million dollars." Now, after the wedding, he began working at a small salary, and in surprise one day, this same person said to her, "Why you

said he was worth a million." She answered, "I did not say he ~~was~~ had a million dollars. I said he was worth a million dollars, and I had rather have for my husband a man who is worth a million dollars if he does not possess a single dollar than to have one who possesses a million dollars and is not himself worth a dollar." Christianity gives direction to life. It is the thing that counts. "To every man there openeth a high way and a low, and every man decideth the way that he should go."

The glory of a young man's life, the ~~brutal~~ beauty of a young woman's life is something we call conscience, and it enables one to climb. I have a deep conviction that what young people need most is a clear purpose to tunnel through the mountain, to bridge the rivers of obstruction. As the little poem states:

"One ship drives east and another west,

With the self-same winds that blow.

'Tis the set of the sails

And not the gales

Which tell us the way to go."

Like the winds of the sea or the waves of fate

As the voyage along through life

'Tis the will of the soul

That decides the goal,

And not the calm or the strife."

What does purpose do to us and direction bearing this yoke? It will turn a pile of bricks and lumber into a palace. It will transform a pile of rough iron into a locomotive. It will turn a course canvas into a thing of beauty. Nothing in the world can take the ~~xxx~~ place of direction. Multitudes ~~diff~~ drift into ruin. They fail in their cause because they do not have a high goal before them. The saddest thing is to see that young people, as well as older people, who feed their minds on cheap literary things when they could be feeding on some of the most sublime truths in the world. If you have purpose, prayed and endeavored for the highest, and have not yet achieved ~~xxx~~ remember that one day you will reach that goal. A young man or young woman without direction is like dough without yeast - they will never rise.

There is a motto on a school which says, "Be foremost that you may be of service." Joseph built castles in the air, he dreamed of sheaves bending to his ~~xxx~~ sheaf.

Margaret Slattery, in a book entitled, "The Charm of the Impossible"

tells as she urges the young not to camp on the foothills, but to look  
beyond the ranges and to follow the voices that call from the mountains.  
 What you may do for the world depends upon what you yourself are, as to  
 whether or not you put this yoke on. It doesn't matter whether you are  
 poor or rich today, but you need this direction.

While civilization is rocking and tumbling reminds me of the  
two children who were playing on the railroad track in the mountains and  
 they were going through a deep gorge. And as they ~~w~~ were down on the ~~xxx~~  
 bottom of this, they heard the fast train coming. They did not have time to  
 get out, and so they climbed up the side of the bank and held on to the  
over-hanging rocks as the train thundered by. The little girl, in order to  
 encourage her brother, kept saying to him as the train rushed by, "Cling to  
the rock, brother, cling to the rock." That's what we ~~had~~ need to do now.  
 The world is xx rushing madly on, but we have a mighty rock to which we can  
 cling. We can trust Jesus. He will win over every human force. Jesus shall  
 reign where e'er the sun doth his successive journe~~y~~s run:

A certain printer had a striking trade mark. He draws a circle on  
 his paper, puts his name in the circle, and under the name he~~w~~ writes the  
 three simple words, "I never disappoint." My friends, Jesus never disappoints.

Keep this ideal before you. And bear this yoke. It will give you direction.

God has for you somewhere on life's pathway - he will lead ~~xx~~ you to

the ideal companion. He will lead you out of the valleys of despair, and he

will give you the direction you need. Go straight ahead, get in the yoke,

discipline yourself, and find this direction. Lincoln said once, "I will

prepare myself and some day my chance will come." And sure enough his

chance came. The surgeon who operates in the hospital, he didn't go there the

first day to the operating room and work on a patient. He wasn't allowed to

~~ppa~~ operate the first day he went to medical school. He had to first follow

years of study. Then he had to have practice and training before he was ever

permitted to go into that operating room. It takes training to be a great

surgeon, and it takes training to make a great Christian. When God wanted a

man for the biggest task in the Old ~~xxxx~~ Testament, he selected Moses. Moses

was the best trained man of his day. When God wanted the biggest man for a

~~big~~ big job in the New Testament, he selected Paul, one of the best trained

men of his day. You can cut wood with a dull ax, but you can cut it much better

with a sharp one. And if youth bear the yoke and get direction, they ~~wxxx~~ will

be capable. There are some ~~x~~ talented people who can teach school or conduct

prayer ~~meeting~~ meeting, and so forth and so on. But they lack the willingness. They are not ready to bear the yoke and render the service to Christ and his church.

### III. Destiny

When the yoke was placed ~~upon~~ upon the ox, this will guarantee that he will be able to be directed to the destiny of the master, and the ~~yoke~~ <sup>youth</sup> of today who are working out their destiny for tomorrow must recognize this.

Kipling had the following scripture engraved over the fire place in the room where he did his work. "The night cometh when no man can work." Day by day the great poet was constantly reminded that he must be busy at his ~~g~~ God-given task. You are young now and the days do not fly by so swiftly. But all too soon the years will be passing away like ships in the night. Let us remember to be ~~x~~ busy for God. Let it be the best that we have. Life at its best is very short. There is much to do and so little time to do it.

Keep your eyes on your goal. I remember the reading in history, the battle of Franklin, Tenn. During the war, Gen. Hood who had already lost one leg was limping up and down in front of his tent pitched upon a prominent place, watching a great sector of the battle front. From a ~~far~~ fort in a locus grove, held ~~gxy~~ by the Union forces, he could see the deadly shot and shell as it poured

death into his own ranks. He called an adjutant general "Come here." He presented himself. Gen. Hood said, "Go and present my compliments to Gen. Cleburne, and tell him I ask at his hands the fort in the locust grove." The adjutant wheeled on his horse, sped away to Gen. Cleburne's division. Upon being told that it was feared that Gen. Cleburne had been killed, he reported again to Gen. Hood. There were increased volleys and death continued to be poured from the fort. Hood said, "Carry the message to Gen. Cheatham." He found that Gen. Cheatham was likewise missing, and so he reported it. Then Gen. Hood said, "Go and present my love to Gen. ~~Cheatham~~ Cockrell and tell him that I ask at his hands for the fort in the locust grove." When the message was presented to Gen. Cockrell, he straightened himself on the saddle and said, "First Missouri Brigade, attention." He dropped his finger on the fort. They charged with a fearful loss on that fort, captured it, and silenced its guns.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Cockrell called the adjutant and said, "Go and present my love to Gen. Hood and tell him I ~~am~~ present him with the fort in the ~~XXXXX~~ locust grove."

Jesus is looking to the youth of today as he points his finger at the citadels of wickedness. He warms the hearts with his love, clothes them with his power. They must storm these citadels and make advances for him.

In the yoke, you will determine your destiny with your eyes upon the

goal you will find inspiration. As this way leads to the City of God.

~~Isaiah~~ Isiah, when he saw the Lord high and lifted up, was refreshed.

And as you lift your eyes, you will see the Lily of the Valley. You will enjoy that home over there. And you will enjoy the home over here, because you are founded on the Rock of Ages. You go from place to place in this country of ours and see the beauty, but as Christians you are going to seek another country. That is Heaven. Wherefore, God is not ashamed to be their God, for He hath prepared for them a city. And you will be welcomed. Come ye blessed of my father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

When your life has verified the truth of this text, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth" - and all of your life's battles have been fought, and the victory **has** been won, and evening comes on, "The toils of the journey will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way."

The most remarkable things are happening today. In this day when all forms of government are in trouble and trivial problems are aired, and even the church seems to be in trouble, yet in a youth rally recently held in Greensboro, N.C. in the coliseum on Feb. 2, they gathered there to sing about Christ, and to pray for their ~~parish~~ problems of this generation. The officials of the

city joined them. The police declared it was the largest traffic jam in their experience. Buses were backed up everywhere. There were 4,000 voices in the youth choir that filled the stadium with ~~music~~ music of Christ.

There were 1,519 decisions recorded at the close of the youth night, and this caught the Baptist unprepared as did the arrival of this 4,000 more people than the coliseum would hold. I think youth are beginning to bear

the yoke and to take Christianity, and they ~~have~~ have been seeking something, and they have been searching everywhere without discovering it. What ~~is~~ they

are discovering is that there is love and forgiveness ~~is~~ and a sense of mission

Met  
11:29-30

This means we are free to exchange the yoke of alientation, the yoke of a meaningless life, the yoke of a wrong purpose, for the yoke of discipleship to Christ. Now, the yoke may seem like a strange symbol of freedom, but the yoke of Christ is a yoke so long forgotten.

How remarkable that a young person will say, "God has changed my life. The yoke of sin crushes us down, but to be yoked to Christ is to be yoked to a power that lifts us up."

You see, when Christ invited people to share his yoke, He was not offering it to people who were not wearing any. He offered His yoke in exchange for the intolerable yokes they were already carrying. Compared to the yoke of bondage to sin and pride, His yoke really is easy and His burden is light.

That doesn't mean that it is always easy to be a Christian. It does mean that a Christian can always depend on Christ's companionship and power. Christ never offers us a yoke He does not intend to help us carry. And that makes all the difference in the world. To be yoked to Christ is to be yoked to the power of the Holy Spirit. To be yoked to Christ is to be yoked to a new assurance of acceptance with God. To be yoked to Christ is to be yoked to a new confidence in eternal life.

When the Baptist World Alliance met in Brazil, Dr. Edward Pruden and I had breakfast with a young Baptist pastor from Argentina. We asked him how he happened to be a Baptist minister. Had he grown up in a Baptist Home? No, he told us, his folks were all Catholic. "In fact," he said, I have a brother who is a priest, and a sister who is a nun." How then, we asked him, did he become a Baptist?

tist? His answer intrigued us. He said, "I tried to convert a Baptist, and it backfired."

Naturally we wanted to know how it had backfired. He said, "Well, I found that my Baptist friend had two things I wanted, but did not have. First, he had a sense of the daily companionship of Christ. And, second, he had an absolute confidence of his acceptance with God, not because of what he was or had done, but because of what Christ had done for him."

The Argentine pastor went on to say that after his Baptist friend had opened the scriptures to him, and after he had accepted Christ's promise of full forgiveness, he wrote to his sister to tell her about the wonderful new assurance he had found. She wrote back, "So you think you are sure, do you? Well, let me tell you, I have been working for my salvation for 40 years, and I am not sure yet."

Let us thank God for the freedom and assurance we have through faith in Christ. For only Christ can say, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mtt. 11:29-30)

To be yoked to the world can crush us down, but to be yoked with Christ is to be yoked to a power that can lift us up into a glorious new relationship with God with our