

— Guest Editorial —

THE CONSTRAINING LOVE OF CHRIST

by

Rev. E. W. Tokley

"The love of Christ constraineth us." "That was Paul's explanation of his utter devotion to God, and his untiring zeal in his ministry to others.

Dr. Weymouth renders his words, "The Love of Christ overmasters us." Another rendering I have read is, "The love of Christ monopolizes us." Still another is, "The love of Christ has exclusive rights to us." Such a testimony gives us much to consider.

The question has sometimes been raised as to whether Paul meant Christ's love for him, or his love for Christ. But was he not speaking of both, plus much more? Was he not thinking of Christ's love expressed to him, and then becoming the constraining pattern and passion of his Christian life and consecration?

Doubtless he was first powerfully influenced by Christ's love for him. He wrote of "the Son of God who loved me, and gave Himself for me." But, as I have suggested, he was also constrained by Christ's love within him. Shed abroad in his heart would be his way of putting it. Yet still further was he challenged by the pattern he saw in Christ's love. Expressing thoughts and feelings he wrote: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them. "It is evident that Paul's understanding and appreciation of Christ's death gave to him a Calvary perspective concerning Christ's provision and purpose for all men, and a Calvary passion and pattern to win them.

All that, I think, Paul meant when he declared that the love of Christ constrained him, overmastered him, had exclusive rights to him. Christ's love for him and in him, and for all men, challenged and inspired him to a supreme devotion to his Savior and Master, and to a most sacrificial service on behalf of others.

Something of a like experience moved Frances Ridley Havergal to write:

"I love, I love my Master, I will not go out free!
For He is my Redeemer; He paid the price for me.
I would not leave His service. It is so sweet and blest;
As in the weariest moments He gives the truest rest.

My Master shed His life-blood My vassal life to win,
And save me from the bondage of tyrant self and sin.
He chose me for His service, and gave me power
to choose

That blessed, perfect freedom, which I shall never
lose.

I would not halve my service, His only it must be!
His only - Who so loved me, and gave Himself for me.
Rejoicing and adoring, henceforth my song shall be—
I love, I love my Master, I will not go out free!"

Such is the testimony of all, who with Paul can say, "The love of Christ has exclusive rights to me."

A PRAYER FOR REVIVAL

Spirit of God, come, Oh! come, we pray; earth's night is dark—and many go astray. The fire of love for souls is burning low, Oh! send Thy fire and set the church aglow

Spirit of God, come, Oh! come, we pray; we need a mighty Pentecost today. Great Spirit, come—convincing

NOTICE

Rev. and Mrs. Eric Haywood will sail for
Africa from Saint John on Thursday, August 8.

men of sin; unveil the unbelief that works within.

Spirit of God, come, Oh! come, we pray; light up the darkness with Thine own bright ray. Burn up the worldliness, the sin, the dross; and turn men's hearts to Christ and to His cross.

Spirit of God, come, Oh! come, we pray; revive Thy Work! Oh! Lord, without delay. Revive the love for souls, the need reveal, and set Thy church ablaze with holy zeal.

Spirit of God, come, Oh come, we pray; revive and deepen prayer from day to day. Thou dost respond to faith's persistent plea, "Teach us to pray," till we the answer see.

—Joyful News

QUOTES FROM DR. MARTIN AT BEULAH

"Sometimes God can be glorified more through our sufferings than through our successes."

"Victory means that you have been in a battle and have won."

"The emergencies of life correct our sense of values."

"Faith, to be Christian faith, must have the prior Word of God."

"We cannot be right with God when we are not right with others."

"No man is ever a spectator only. He always adds to or subtracts from a particular situation."

"If we want Pentecost for its after-effects only we aren't quite to the point."

"Whenever we meet God the condition is always the same -- total obedience."

"Communion is not an experience in pity but one in praise."

"Come to the table of the Lord with a song and a shout when you think of a God who can give power and victory, life, strength and adequacy."

"Obedience is taking the Word of God and making one's life conform to it."

"All the Church needs to do to have Pentecost is to be obedient."

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