

Constraining Love.

REV. ALEXANDER MACLAREN, D.D.

The love of Christ constrains us... We do not usually pay much attention to a man analyzing his own motives...

Here he tells us that Jesus Christ's love to him was a great, strong, tender, irresistible love upon him...

First, where lies the power of Christ upon men? The love of Christ constrains us...

Secondly, what sort of life will this constraining love of Christ produce? I turn to the context for an abundant answer...

Thirdly, how does this constraining love of Christ produce its effect? The natural life of man has self for its centre...

There is but one power, dear brother, which is strong enough to lift our lives from the pivot on which they turn...

Where will you find this power? The following salutary counsel to young men was uttered recently by Dr. Marcus Dods...

Until we fight against sin as the allies and subjects of Christ, as well as for our own sake, we are not in Christ's army...

Again, the sort of life which Christ will often look like madness. "Whether we be hence ourselves," says Paul...

That is to say, if we are to love Christ, in distinction to merely admiring, reverencing, obeying His precepts and the like...

at him as "enthusiastic," and "impracticable," and "Quixotic," and all the rest of it...

Further, this constraining love will produce lives of self-sacrifice which, in their enthusiasm, are ruled by the high sobriety and clear-sightedness. "Whether he be sober it is for your cause."

Well did Matthew Henry say: "We do not trust God, but tempt Him, when our expectations slacken our exertions."

Young men and women who have yours to spare, lay this to heart, that wisdom points to a enthusiastic devotion to Jesus Christ...

Christians men and women, do you believe in such a living love for you? Have you laid it upon your hearts...

Do you know of any who make no profession, and have no love of Christian fellowship, and who are not in Christ's army?

One sweetest word of holy meaning comes to my mind. It is the word of the apostle Paul: "I will ever glory in my weakness."

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The Worker's Inspiration.

The faithful servants of God need not be distressed with doubts respecting the success of their endeavours...

While desired achievements may be delayed, or stopped in a different path, or that in an unfeeling way...

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Very appropriate are the words of the Englishman, an English writer who died about 1678, says: "Do thy part with industry, and leave the event with God."

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Frank, Harry, Tom, and Ned.

"Mamma, I get muddled over the Bible as often as I study. The deeper I go the worse it gets..."

"Matthew and Mark do seem to contradict each other, and I am not quite certain that Luke and John are in perfect accord..."

"Please!" "Please!" "Please!" broke in three voices. "On one condition only," answered Mrs. Marston...

"All together," said Mrs. Marston, approvingly, "they make a charming and, I don't mind, perfect narration. The facts are the same, but how different is each sketch!"

"Not a bit of it, mother mine!" replied Harry. "Both are very facts. The tree is exactly at the gate."

"The appearance of Bridget called Mrs. Marston's attention to domestic matters, and the boys went to bathing."

"Yes, my son. Don't you think it was a good way?" "A very, very good way; and I know I shall never forget it."

"I hope they will," said Harry; "for old Mr. Rosser is always harping on the contradictions of the Bible."

"Well," said Harry, "if my simple illustration, pleasingly learned, will be the means of helping one soul from darkness nearer the light, then truly the day's frolic will not have been in vain."

"Oh! let my life-harp be sweetly attuned to Thee, Thee alone, my Father and my Rest. In making others best!"

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