

The Contrrolling Power of Christ

Math. 8:27

The tired master was fast asleep. The stars shone above the water mirrored their light from beneath and the boat lurchly moved.

Suddenly from the shore there came a booming sound and a wind that scattered the water of the water. The storm grows more and more violent till it breaks upon the boat.

The apostles are frightened and come and find the master asleep. They awake him.

What Christ did:

1. Rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith. In the face of this how do you suppose He feels toward His church to-day?
2. He next rebuked the storm. At once the winds went back to their Mt. homes and the waves laid their heads on the pillows of Isabter and the stars came out.

The apostles stood amazed and said, "Behold what manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"

This incident turns our thoughts to its control that man is exercising over the forces of nature.

Paul tells of a ship loaded with wheat crossing the Mediterranean sea when the gale winds beat upon it dreadfully. They threw off the load and thereby the ship made it to shore.

Just how we might take the lesson that we need to unload some of the things that hinder our voyage from earth to heaven.

A year or so ago two African Armenians flying from England to their own land had to cross the Mediterranean sea and were overtaken by these same Euroclydon winds through such a storm as held Paul 14 days and finally wrecked his ship the 20th Century armenian found in a few hours to the calm sea good.

Our knowledge of the forces that govern nature is increasing and has great promise. So much of the secrets of nature has been unlocked that we some times are prone to say "Behold what manner of men are we that the unseen powers of nature should obey us when we turn a coil or press a button."

How far can we hope to conquer nature? Will it ever be possible to temper the winter blasts that sweep down from the far north, or bring rain from the clouds when we parched earth languishes, control earth quake or the dreaded storm? Now and then when we are congratulating ourselves upon our conquest of nature, nature rises above us in majestic power, hangs pitiless for a dreadful moment then breaks upon us in appalling devastation and a while nature seems to say "Hitherto all that you come and no further"

But after all our conquest which are interesting and profitable we have to come to the conclusion that the subduing of strange forces will not bring us true happiness, nor will deeper scientific knowledge solve all our deepest problems.

Some of the world's deepest problems

were connected with the Near East
conditions because we also aimed but
we still have the Near East problem.

The differences
between Labor and Capital are not more easily
settled because we have cunningly devised
machines that seem to think. We have crossed
the barren icefields and gained both Poles, we
have braved the wildest storms that ever angered
the ocean, we have sailed under the seas and in the
air, and have sent forth our words into space, but
we have failed to establish amity among the
nations, we have not quelled the heart of the
turbulent Turk, nor have we been able to abolish
our ever recurring strikes.

The reason is that these things lie in the realm
of human nature which is a higher realm than that
of nature, and therefore more difficult to deal with,
but more fundamental to human happiness and
progress. Until we consider there we shall seek
peace in vain.

It is not the Swatow typhoons or earthquakes
claiming tens of thousands of victims from which
we have most to fear, but the upheavals of human
nature like the war which caused unspeakable
agony on a staggering scale far beyond anything
that follows a cosmic catastrophe. And the war
was the result of human greed, jealousy, arrogance
and unbridled passion.

Our control of nature's forces has made possible
a wider, fuller life, but it has also made war and
killing possible on a more terrible scale than ever
before. Unless we can control human nature the
forces of nature—the controlling of which we
boast—will turn upon us and rend us. The things
that wreck our peace and break our hearts, the
things we have most to fear are our own darker
passions.

We go back to the scene in the boat, the angry
waves, the word of rebuke from Christ and the
great calm. But Jesus did not come to give us
power over nature: he came to give us a greater
thing, power over ourselves—over human nature.
It is a great thing to be able to control the force
of Niagara, but there is more power for good or
evil in human hearts than in a million Niagaras,
and Jesus Christ came to show us how to control
this power for happiness of the race and for the
Kingdom of God.

These four things being
ruled wherewith all
to Christ.

We can have nation
al and international
conferences. Elect
officers of law, hang
people and penalize
them but we will
never have state
national officers
settled until we
settle them by the
standard of the
Christ.

Lavassier who
demonstrated the law of conservation was hounded
to the scaffold during reign of terror the mob enjoy
the Republic has no need of savants (men of bor
g)

Historians give credit to the removals
under Wesley and Whitfield for the saving
of England during the dangerous period of
transition from bloody French revolution
the same Gospel preached in New England

Made a land of Abriha where without it
there would have been paganism. Such
is the power of Christ.

No wonder men are anxious for
Him to guide the giant nations of the
East.

The waves of the sea had to obey the Master. We have free will and can refuse to obey, but until we yield to him and the love of God comes into the life, the heart will be tossed about and ill at ease. And how wonderful is the calm of that hour in which, hearing the call of Jesus, we lay down the weapons of rebellion and find forgiveness and the peace of God. The heart that knows not this

has yet to know its greatest experience.

No matter what inventions may result from the new knowledge nor what progress may be made, Christian character will always be basic to the highest life. The great virtues stand. The pure in heart will still see God. The life that is hidden with Christ in God is life eternal. Human happiness will ever come not from things outward but from within, and where Christ reigns there will be peace.



Now it pays to follow this Controlling
Master. The controlling of nature are not
His major power but His control of hu-
man nature was the great thing as it
related to the spiritual life.

Those men who will follow Christ in the
matter of self control and who as not
yet doubt members let them come for-
ward to day.