

THE POWER OF CHRIST

SERMONS BY TEXAS BAPTIST PASTORS

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SERMON SIX

LIFE'S DISCOVERIES UTILIZED

By

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I. In the Political Realm

Discoveries in the political realm which have had to do with the life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in the body politic have been innumerable. From the days when Abraham and Lot found it necessary to reach a definite agreement concerning their pasture lands; on through the days of Caesar, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Cavour, Bismarck, Gladstone, and Washington, there have been many and varied questions seeking out the best there is in life, both for the individual and the many.

No discovery has meant more to the human race, and been put to more profitable use than that of political and religious freedom; which have usually gone hand in hand. The United States had full religious freedom only when she won political freedom. There was no open Bible and religious liberty in Texas until political freedom was attained at the price of hardships, suffering, and shedding of blood.

Such noble ideals, and fixedness of purpose, were back of the heroic leadership of such immortals as Travis, Bonham, Bowie, Crockett and the other 176 brave souls sacrificed in the Alamo for our fair state.

Peace, goodwill, and permanency of governments does not come by way of human slavery. The individual who has slaves is himself a slave. The only way to enslave a people or an individual is to be enslaved. The nation able to defeat her neighbor in war in 1918 has no certainty of being able so to do in 1938.

The League of Nations, the World Court, and numerous peace organizations round the world bear testimony to the fact that it is better for nations to live together in peace and neighborly goodwill than to harbor envy, jealousy and strife. A mighty challenge faces every Christian today, who professes to teach or believe the Bible, to lend his or her influence against war and for peace.

II. In the Social Realm

Most fortunate is the person who early discovers that as little things hinder the flow of power through one person's life to another, the breaking of a law may deprive one of his freedom the remainder of his life.

- Disobeying one rule deprived a college student of a university degree.
- Disregarding an accepted social courtesy defeated a young man in his effort to secure a lucrative position.
- Losing his temper barred the road into the promised land to Moses.
- And making light of the Lord's invitation to the marriage feast forever closed the door of entrance to the palace for those thus invited.

It may be a word, a look, an act, which ordinarily would be considered insignificant, which stops the power of God from flowing through you to others.

It is not difficult to locate someone who can detect a flat tire on your automobile, a broken axle, or an empty tank of gas. Yet, it is often difficult to locate an expert electrician, or a mechanic who can readily discern why there is a slight skip in the running of your motor. It is not difficult to discover a broken crystal on your watch; but is rather difficult to locate the tiny bit of dust which may have clogged a jewel in a watch no larger than a dime. Most any Sunday school teacher can discern outward bad habits in the life of a boy or girl, man or woman, when evidenced by cursing, drunkenness, gambling, etc., but it takes an expert to discern what may be working in the mind, and offer the needed correction. Such is the high calling, and tremendous responsibility of a church worker.

The autobiography of Edward Bok, a lad who landed in the United States at an early age from the Netherlands, has always been of interest to me. He made two discoveries when a mere boy which had much to do with his phenomenal success as Editor of the *Ladies Home Journal*, as well as other worthy undertakings.

His early training in regard to cleanliness led to his first job after his father's death. While walking in front of a bakery shop, hungry but without funds to purchase any food for his mother and the younger children in the family, he noted the windows were not clean. Therefore, the cookies and pies did not show up to best advantage through the dingy glass. He stepped inside and asked the manager if he might clean his windows. Consent was granted. They were cleaned so well that the manager gave him a job. From that time he was never without a job.

During these times, when it is extremely difficult to secure employment of any sort, we are greatly interested in the ingenuity of many youths who seem to be able to find something to do.

There was a young man in a distant city who discovered many people had dogs but did not give any attention to a balanced diet for them. Hence, he put in an establishment for the purpose of selling meals to dogs. Soon in the city of Philadelphia he had two trucks busy.

There was a woman who put in a Personal Service Bureau. She will do any sort of task for you, from preparing a talk for the civic club, to reserving you a seat for the ball game.

There is an industrious boy on a busy drugstore corner in Washington who makes it his business to see that his clients do not miss their street cars. He observed many of the people missed their cars while engaged in conversations. There was his chance, and he began to remind people of the approaching car one block away. Into his hand would go a nickel. Thus he built up his clientele until he has a good living.

A college student while reading the paper noted a certain proposed bill before congress. It occurred to him that many different business concerns would be interested in that bill. He made a list of 3,500 different concerns which would be interested in the outcome of the bill. He wrote them and proposed to give them an expert digest of the bill for \$10.00. As a result of his undertaking he cleared \$10,000 after hiring an expert to make the digest.

I am but trying to restate the age-old platitude, that if one can find some needed service the people affected will respond. All of the above suggested positions were created on the basis of social service; discovering and supplying the needs of humanity. Surely the Christian religion if rightly taught and believed will create a desire within the breast of every person to respond to the needs of humanity. True Christians will not long go with food waste while others go hungry. Nor will we pass our neighbor by day after day and let his immortal soul slip into hell without having made an honest effort to show him the light.

A fixedness of purpose, accompanied by a reasonable amount of ability and endeavor will surely win in the end. Fixedness of purpose will enlist in Sunday school, church, and to Christ as Saviour. Perhaps my greatest victory was a man won to Christ after four years of continuous labor. It is worth my effort to become master of my mind instead of allowing my mind to master my soul.

III. In the Scientific Realm

Ancient philosophers and scientists passed on to us a wealth of knowledge we are constantly using in our daily life.

Pythagoras, the great Greek philosopher who lived 582 years before Christ, sought truth in many lands. He returned home to sum up his findings in: Abstinence, Purity, and Meditation.

- Aristotle, searching after truth in 384 B. C, voiced his belief in the immortality of the soul.
- Copernicus, of Germany, was willing to suffer for truth's sake, and gave to the world his irresistible argument favoring the present solar system.

Every person who possesses a time piece, or who has peered through a telescope or microscope should give credit to the scientist Galileo Galilei; who did not use the convex and concave lens as a plaything like Johannes Lippershey, but rather turned it to useful account.

Many modern scientists have discovered and utilized much for the good of the human race.

- Michael Faraday revealed to the world the possibility of the commercial use of electricity.
- Dr. Harvey, through years of effort, revealed the circulation of the blood.
- Isaac Newton gave to us the Violet Ray utilized today for the saving of life.
- Lavoisier announced to the world that man breathed oxygen; thus we use the oxygen tent to save thousands of lives annually.

Before the days of the miracle work of Pasteur only painful death awaited one bitten by a rabid dog. From the United States, Russia, and other lands they flocked to him to be saved from an agonizing death.

IV. In the Spiritual Realm

Discoveries in the spiritual are of more importance than all other discoveries; and their use for mankind are of far greater consequence.

It is of value and highly satisfactory for man to be able to use electricity in so many ways. Yet, people got along very well before the day of commercial use of electricity.

It is of interest to be able to know when certain changes may take place among the heavenly bodies. Though man continues just as he did before such knowledge was revealed and would not be seriously affected were every telescope in existence turned from the heavens.

Recently there came into my home a man greatly disturbed in spirit. In Brownwood, a city of two Christian colleges, there are able scientists, mathematicians, doctors, lawyers, musicians, judges, legislators, and financiers, whose judgment and advice are sought by many. Yet, this man was not seeking any of them. He came to seek out one who was supposed to know something about God. His soul was crying out for an understanding which could not be revealed by science, astronomy, medicine, law, or mathematics. It did my heart good as he left to hear him say, as he gripped my hand, "I thank you, Brother Moore, for your spiritual help and sympathetic understanding."

How many a teacher and preacher and Christian worker has had one to say, "You will never know how much you have meant to my life."

"It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

The discovery of brotherhood towards other peoples. Peter's life was greatly enriched and enlarged in usefulness by the discovery of brotherhood toward other peoples. He grew from winning Cornelius and his family, to winning 3,000 in one day. Indeed, he had become a fisher of men.

The discovery of Christian vision and hearing is of elevating value. **"They that were with me . . . heard not the voice of Him that spake to me . . ."** (Acts 22:9).

Again on the storm-tossed sea, while the soldiers and sailors were hearing only the roar of the sea, and seeing only the flash of the lightning, there stood by Paul an angel of the Lord and spoke to him in words of assurance and good cheer. As he faced the officers of the ship he said, “**Be of good cheer, for there stood by me this night an angel of the Lord.**” The cause of our Lord is reaching out for workers who in the midst of the storms of life can hear the soft and assuring words of a messenger from God—the voice of the Holy Spirit definitely directing what should be done.

May we come to the tragic experience of our blessed Lord?

As Jesus prayed to His Father following the supper with Lazarus the voice from heaven answered back to request that His name be glorified, “**I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.**” Whereupon it is written that the people who stood by and heard it, said that it thundered.

Others said, “**An angel spake to Him.**” What are our ears tuned to hear, our eyes focused to see, our wills pledged to do? Can we hear only the thunder, and not the voice of God? Can we see only the sinner in the man created in the image of God, or can we see the man created in God’s image in the sinner? Is it our will to do for self, or to “**keep His commandments and do those things which are pleasing in His sight**”? I am persuaded it is the innermost desire of all true Christians to say with our Lord, “It is my meat to do His will, and to finish the task He has assigned.”

DR. Karl Hildreth Moore was born near Venus, Texas, Dec. 11, 1893. Education, Decatur Baptist College, Baylor U., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (A.B., Th.M., Th. D. and D.D.). Ordained, June 23, 1915. Pastorates: Grandview, Texas, 1920-23; Moody, Texas, 1923-26; Wilson, Okla., 1926-29; Blackwell, Okla., 1929-31; Denton, Texas, 1931-34; Brownwood, Texas, May, 1935 to date.

The First Baptist Church, Brownwood, has 1,852 members. Since May, 1935, under Dr. Moore’s ministry, there have been 640 additions. Total contributions have been \$75,000. Their record Sunday school attendance is 852. Total value of all their church property is \$130,000 (All statistics as of Dec. 15, 1937).

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