

## SERMON: CHRISTIANS UNDER GOOD OR BAD CONTROL

**INTRODUCTION:** Are we controlled by things in our lives that are not in our best interest? Let us take a look at things that we are often controlled by and then look at what should be in control of our lives

### I. IMPROPER CONTROL: Things that should not be in control of our lives.

#### A. Controlled by our TEMPER

Temper is the probably the top things on the list we allow to control our lives. Unchecked TEMPER or anger can destroy not only ourselves but others around us. I am not referring to “righteous indignation” here. For example: anger at an injustice or someone having wrong done to them. God is even ANGRY at sin. I am talking about when righteous anger takes over and is uncontrolled. God's anger at sin does not control him. The anger referred to here is uncontrolled anger that is not over unrighteousness.

*Ephesians 4:31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

*Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

*Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

A TEMPER that controls will cause us to:

- Speak hastily.
- Hurt those you love.
- Jump to unjust conclusions.
- Damage your testimony.

#### B. Controlled by our TONGUE

The tongue is another one of the greatest things to control. The Bible has much to say about the tongue talking out of turn, or when not appropriate.

##### 1. The tongue is a FIRE:

*James 3.5-6: (5) Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! (6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

##### 2. The tongue is a POISON:

*James 3.8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

### **C. Controlled by the TREASURE OF THIS WORLD.**

The New Testament has much to say about treasure and storing of treasure. The scripture is not talking about earning a living to pay your bills or planning for a modest retirement. Laying up of treasure here on earth is talking about laying up treasure for the sake of laying up treasure and not for God's glory. When it controls us we are more concerned about our worldly "treasure" than we are about the work of God.

*James 5:1-3: (1)Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. (2) Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten (3) Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*

*Luke 12:21: So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

*Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:34:For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*Matthew 12:35: A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

*Luke 6:45: A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

### **D. Controlled by EVIL THOUGHTS**

The most secret things we can be controlled by our own THOUGHTS. Others around will not realize that we are being controlled by wrong thoughts. But sooner or later it will come out. Thoughts good or bad manifest themselves in our actions.

*Matthew 15:19: For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:*

*Mark 7:21: For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.*

**Jesus knows our thoughts:**

*Matthew 9:4: And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*

*1Corinthians 3:20: And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*

## II. PROPER CONTROL: What should be in control of our lives

### A. SPIRIT OF GOD (HOLY SPIRIT)

*Galatians 5:16-18: (16) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

*Ephesians 5:17-18: (17) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

*1 Peter 1:19-22: 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

### B. SCRIPTURE (WORD OF GOD)

*Romans 10:16-17: (16) But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? (17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

*1Thessalonians 2:13: For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

*Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### C. SUBMIT TO THOSE IN CHARGE

*Ephesians 6:5-7: (5) Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; (6) Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; (7) With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: (8) Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

*1 Timothy 6:1-2: (1) Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. (2) And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.*

### III. CONCLUSION

**If we fellowship with God and immerse ourselves in His Word, we will not be controlled by these things. We need to bathe in prayer these controllers who would attempt to control our lives.**

***Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***