

in the knowledge of salvation. It is tremendously important that we take advantage of every opportunity.

It is tremendously important not only that we think it through and make sure that we're not just saying words because others say them, but that we truly believe in Christ, truly belong to Him. But also that we be God's instruments to bring others into the knowledge of the truth.

When I graduated from college they had a soloist from one of the neighboring churches come and sing. I thought what a song to sing at a graduation. Oh it was beautiful words, beautiful words and beautifully sung. It was William Ernest Henley's *Invictus*. "Out of the night that covers me, black as the pit from pole to pole, (a good destruction of the man without God! without Christ!) I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul! In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance my head is bloody but unbowed!! Beyond this place of wrath and tears, looms but the horror of the ~~saade~~ shade, and yet the meace of the years finds and shall find me unafraid! It matters not how straight the gate, how charged with punishment the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul!" What nonsense!

There's something in it that appeals to us. We like to think, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul! What you do matters. What you decide matters. Your actions are important. But if you are going to live eternally, God must be the master of your fate, --God is the master of your fate anyway! (Laughter) You must take him as the captain of your soul. Beyond the place of wrath and tears does not loom the horror of the shade, but beyond all the sufferings of this life there is God the omnipotent. God is in control. God is the One who has determined all things and he determines all things not unconditionally, --- not there are conditions, purposes, meanings. God has His reasons for all that He does.

Francis Schaeffer said to me one day: You know I meet people who are so convinced of the greatness of God that they make man an absolute cipher. He said, That's wrong. I meet others who make man everything, and that's even worse! Man matters. God made us for great purposes. God desires that we shall be saved. It is not His will that any should perish but that all should come to a knowledge of His salvation. God wishes to use us as His instruments. God controls. What a blessing! What it can mean in your life, that God controls, God directs, God has determined all things beforehand. But your decisions are real. They matter. God wants you to learn from His word, to make right decisions and to follow on those decisions and though all the forces of nature and humanity and Satan himself try to prevent you, you go on in the way God wants you to go. This is what Calvinism truly stands for-- not for some 5 points picked out of the great importance of the teaching of Scripture. For it is an attempt to take all the emphases of Scripture and not just part of them, and to stand on all of them. And when others neglect a certain part that's no reason