
“For the love of Christ constraineth us...” (2 Corinthians 5:14)

004: The Constraining Love of Jesus (Part One)

Posted: 7/29/12 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

The ship was moving forward resolutely--its scheduled destination was tomorrow. On board the soldiers were filled with fear and excitement. Tomorrow was to be their D-Day with an island landing south of the island of Japan. They all knew what ferocious fighters the Japanese were; they knew the enemy would fight to the death--kamikaze was there calling. No one knew if they would make it through tomorrow alive or if they would be physically or emotionally scarred for the rest of their lives.

Some decision makers realized that the soldiers were filled with an increased level of anxiety and something needed be done to blow off steam; something really exciting to allow them to accept what was coming tomorrow, and to get the excess energy out of them. They felt the best thing would be the fight before the fight.

As 19 year old fellow soldier Howard Blandau was getting ready for his boxing match he too was filled with uncertainty and anxiety about tomorrow. He loved the Lord Jesus greatly and wondered if he would be spared. The closer the fight time came the further away tomorrow looked.

As he walked to the ring the only thing that mattered was this fight.

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005: The Constraining Love of Jesus (Part Two)

Posted: 8/5/12 by T. George Homsher, M.Ed.

Round one of the three round boxing match was off to a furious start. Howard was finding his range against his opponent almost at will. Meanwhile, the place was packed and the soldiers were at a fever pitch with excitement. When they realized who was winning the match they began screaming with reckless abandon, “Kill him Blandau, kill him” and “Blood, blood, blood.” Howard heard it off in the distance, because he was concentrating so much on his opponent. The first round ended with Blandau way ahead.

During the first half of the second round he piled up points and was cruising to victory. Then suddenly, he began hearing the screams of his fellow soldiers as if they were right in his ear, but even more powerfully in his mind came the thought, “For the love of Christ constraineth us.” Immediately, he lost his resolve to fight, and his opponent began finding his marks in front of the stunned crowd. For the rest of the fight Howard was on the defensive--held back by Christ’s love.

After the fight the match was declared a draw.

This would be Howard Blandau’s last competitive boxing match.