

Is There Not a Cause?

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The God who stretched the universe from the north over an empty place, He who hangs the earth upon nothing (Job 26:7), He who created the angels and every single person in the universe, He who created the sun, and the moon, He who numbers the stars and calls every one of them by name (Psalm 147:4)—He had a cause. The Lord who created all the beautiful flowers: the roses, the daffodils, the lilies—He had a cause. The Lord who made the trees, the forests, the mountains, and the seas had a cause. We know that the ten thousand lakes of Minnesota and all the streams and rivers were made by Him, but beyond all of that, He had a cause. This One who created birds that migrate thousands of miles every single winter and come within one-half mile of the same destination year after year—this One had a cause.

The Lord created men and, in His knowledge and foreknowledge of mankind, decided to give

them free volition. As a divine Gentleman, He let them choose. Then He became a Man Himself. Why did He do it? He had a cause.

Jesus has committed this cause unto believers. We are called to be His representatives in this world. Discover the great joy and divine motivation that comes from understanding that we have a cause.

Chapter One

THE COMPASSION OF THE CAUSE

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour” (John 12:27).

God became a Man (John 1:1; 1:14). Yes, He was the God-Man, the most unique personality this world has ever seen. Though He was God, yet He was Man; and though He was Man, yet He was God. He had a cause. His cause was motivated by supernatural love. His cause was to identify with mankind. He would be tempted in all points, such as we are, yet He would live without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

This Man, the God-Man, would visit the sick and was moved with compassion to heal them (see Matthew 14:14). His cause was to show love. This Man said, “For this cause came I unto this hour.” This Man saw people who had no pastor (Matthew 9:36) and He had compassion

on them, for He was the good shepherd of the sheep (John 10:11). This Man saw people who were hungry. Having compassion upon them, He changed five loaves and two fishes to become enough to feed the multitude (Matthew 15:32).

The Tears of the Savior

Exactly one week before He went to the Cross at Calvary, this Man, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beheld the city of Jerusalem and wept (Luke 19:41). In His heart, His mind, and His soul, He saw the heartache, sorrow, pain, sin, iniquity, failure, ignorance, religious pride, and arrogance among the unsaved. He beheld them all. His mind stayed upon their condition until tears came to His eyes, and He wept.

After the death of Lazarus (John 11:33), Jesus saw Mary weep, and He wept. When He saw their friends weep, He wept. When Jesus saw that some did not believe in His power to raise Lazarus, this wonderful Savior groaned with a loud voice and, again, He wept (John 11:38). For this cause He came.

The Eternal Gift

In Mark 1:40-42, a leper, beseeching Him, said, "If thou wilt, make me clean," and Jesus

said, "I will; be clean." The leper was healed that instant. He saved the leper; He saved the publican (Luke 18:13). He went around seeking the lost and saving anyone who would come to Him by grace through faith to receive the gift of eternal life from God. They were not saved by their good works. They simply trusted His love. That's all. They would trust His love, call upon Him, believe, and they would be saved. Sixty-eight things happened to them at the point of their salvation.* They didn't know what was happening at that moment, but Jesus transformed them through His eternal gift.

The dictionary defines a cause as anything that produces an effect or a result. Every Christian must understand that we are saved from something, unto God (1 Thessalonians 1:9). We will be translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son and delivered from a kingdom of terrible darkness, iniquity, infection, and evil (Colossians 1:13), because that is God's cause.

Very few take time to meditate upon this wonderful truth. So few ponder or understand the greatness of God's love, the holiness of His compassion, the purity of His motives, or the reality of His imparted life. So many of us do not take time to consider what a Savior we have, yet

we have received His gift so freely. He is altogether lovely and worthy of our full attention. This is our Beloved, and this is our Friend. (See Song of Solomon 5:16.)

*Read *What Happened When You Received Christ?*, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 2000.

Chapter Two

STAY TRUE TO THE CAUSE

Recently in Washington, DC, the leader of a great church organization honored Dr. Billy Graham, the great evangelist of our time. Dr. Graham, this man said, has never had a scandal. Dr. Graham even went to a journalist who had often criticized his ministry and asked him to write his biography. "Why would you want me to do it? I've been very critical of you," the writer said. Dr. Graham said, "Your criticism corrected me and blessed me."

"Four things have characterized Dr. Graham," the speaker said. "Purity, humility, integrity, and loyalty. He has been loyal to his God, loyal to his call, loyal to the Holy Bible, loyal to his wife, to his family, to his association, to his friends, to the Church, and loyal to the entire world."

Someone asked Dr. Graham, "What is it that you would want people to say about you after

you have gone home to be with God?"

He replied, "To say that I had integrity."

"What is one of the greatest things that you have ever done in your life?" he was asked.

"My greatest moments were the times I spent having fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His living Word," Dr. Graham said. This is a man who has had a cause. Is there not a cause for us today?

Seeing His Cause in Difficulties

A United States senator was going through some personal attacks against his character. One morning as he stepped off a train on his way to work, he heard a street musician playing "Amazing Grace." As he walked a little further, he was still able to hear the musician as he began to play, "Love Lifted Me." The songs were so timely. As soon as the senator arrived at his desk, he wrote a note of thanks and had it delivered to the man at the station immediately.

Those songs broke his heart and lifted this senator so much. At that difficult point in his life, he could see that, yes, there is a cause.

Victory Comes with the Cause

The army of Israel had been challenged by

Goliath and the Philistines. The giant demanded that one man from Israel come out to fight him one on one. In the meantime, David was sent to the battlefield by his father to take food to his brothers who were soldiers. When he got there, his oldest brother, Eliab, mocked him, saying, "You have no business being here. You should be taking care of the sheep."

The leader over Israel's army, King Saul, was very strong and tall. He was very capable of going against Goliath, but he was fearful because he didn't have the proper walk with God. David, on the other hand, sensed the urgency of the hour for the nation of Israel and was determined to go against the giant. When the soldiers tried to discourage the shepherd boy who brought them cheese and bread, David replied, "Is there not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17:29). He then ran at Goliath in the name of the Lord, slinging a smooth stone, and killing the great enemy of Israel.

Is there not a cause? There is a cause to pray for the lost, for the needy, for the weak, for the frail. For this cause we are here, through the Holy Spirit, the grace of God, and the love of God in the eternal purpose. We have a divine cause to reveal, represent, co-labor, and serve

with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Africa, in India, in South America, in Europe—all over the world, we have seen that there is a cause. Our ministry has made an impact, currently in 181 countries, because we have a cause. We have an eternal purpose, and we are here on earth, along with precious Christians everywhere, for a divine cause. There is a cause. We must always remember that in whatever we do, there is a cause.

Chapter Three

REMAINING FAITHFUL IN THE CAUSE

Many years ago I made a motto for myself: “Don’t quit!” Whatever we do, we cannot quit. Do not quit praying. Do not quit loving. Do not quit caring. Do not quit serving. Do not quit studying the Word of God. Do not quit being faithful to the services of your local church three times a week.

Why should we attend church three times a week? There is a cause. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God, and God gives a theme at every service that will help us for the rest of our lives. We have the privilege through faith to receive these themes. By faith, we work out precisely the themes for the hour that will make a difference in our lives forever. Yes, there is a cause.

There is a cause for our church to have over 130 outreaches and ministries in this very special

city to me. There is a cause, and I thank God that there is a cause.

There was a cause for the apostle Paul's suffering for the Gentiles (Acts 9:16). There was a cause.

Why did Jesus save Mary Magdalene, who had eight demons, and made her a wonderful woman of God? There was a cause.

There is a cause for a mother who conceives a child in her womb, carries that child for nine months, gives birth to that baby, and then takes that baby in her arms. She cuddles that baby, takes care of that baby, loves that baby, and treasures that baby. That is a precious cause for a mother.

There is a cause for a father who will rise up early in the morning, go out, and work diligently so he can bring in money to take care of his family.

There is a cause when a young Christian will work hard and receive an education so he can glorify God and honor Jesus Christ as a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse, an administrator, an engineer, or an educator. There is such a precious cause.

Do All to Glorify God

There is a cause, because whatsoever we do

in word or deed, we do all to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

“Whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of Jesus Christ and unto the Father by Him” (see Colossians 3:17).

“Whatsoever you do, do heartily as unto God and not unto men” (see Colossians 3:23).

There is a tremendous cause.

A man of God once made this tremendous statement: “We should never be identified by our oppression. Our oppression should not reveal who we are.”

Our cause is to glorify God in our sports, in our jobs, in our communication, in our motives. That is a cause. It is an eternal purpose. It is a divine cause.

You may say, “But I am not enjoying the work I do.” Then, do whatever you do unto God and not unto men. Enjoy it by giving God the glory. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In everything give thanks.

The precious drug addict—“precious” because of the value of his soul—does not have a cause. The alcoholic who refuses to seek help does not have a cause. The quitter and the slothful person do not have a cause. Do not become a

quitter, too lazy to study, too lazy to work because you don't have a cause. This is a problem with mankind. But God has a divine solution—a purpose for every man. There is a cause.

The Priority of the Cause

William Gladstone, eighty-five years of age, became Prime Minister of England. He would often walk to his office, and every morning he saw a little boy. The little boy would sleep on the streets, and William Gladstone would always stop and talk with him. One morning the boy wasn't there, so Mr. Gladstone said, "I'm going to find out where he is before I go to my office." He found the boy in a hospital with a serious case of pneumonia.

William Gladstone called the office and said, "I won't be in today. I'm going to be by the bedside of this young boy." Love motivated him in his cause. His priority was not in being Prime Minister that day.

Benjamin Franklin contributed to writing the Constitution at the age of eighty-one. Thomas Edison invented the phonograph (what we came to know as the record player) at eighty-three. Colonel Sanders didn't start his fried chicken chain until he was over seventy. They

each had a cause. Casey Stengel was manager of the Yankees baseball team at seventy-five. Connie Mack was manager of the Philadelphia Athletics at eighty-four. They had a cause. They did not just lounge around without a real purpose to their lives. There is nothing wrong with relaxing, but everybody needs to have a cause.

Stewards of the Grace of God

We have a cause! It is to be stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10). It is to be faithful stewards of God's Word (1 Corinthians 4:2). It is to redeem the time because the days are evil.

We need to love the poor, honor the weak, go after the frail, bless the lonely, comfort those who need comforting, and help those that need help through the will of God and Jesus Christ. There is a cause. It is eternal. It is everlasting. It will never stop. There is a cause.

John Wesley was eighty-eight years old and fighting pneumonia when he preached his last message. "I've got to do it again," he said, and with pneumonia he preached the Gospel four times that day from a little balcony.

He said, "Got to do it one more time," and then he died. John Wesley had a cause.

The Energy of the Cause

Moses, at the age of eighty, led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Caleb at the age of eighty was just as strong as he was at the age of forty, and he said, "Give me this mountain! I'm as strong as I was forty years ago."

God's people have energy when they have a cause. Motivated by God's love, they are instruments of God's grace, channels of God's mercy, and communicators of God's life. When God's people really have a cause, they have power, vision, compassion, and communion. They go forward, never quitting. Whatsoever their hands find to do, they do with all their might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Have a cause to keep your marriage together. Have a cause to love the one that perhaps isn't right with God. Have a cause, and let the Holy Spirit shed abroad the love of God in your heart. That is being a steward of grace on every side. First Peter 4:10 talks about the "manifold" grace of God—grace on every side. We give grace because of love, because of the Holy Spirit, because of the living Word—because we have a cause.

CONCLUSION

We were out knocking on doors recently when we heard loud rock music coming from a downstairs apartment. We went to that door and a lady greeted us. I broke as I told her, "God sent us here today to tell you how much Jesus Christ loves you. He died and paid for every sin you could ever commit—past, present, and future. If you believe, you will receive Him today, and the Holy Spirit will come in your heart."

And she said, "I want to." We went into her home and knelt down, and she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior right there. That was a divine appointment. For people such as this lady, we have a cause to go soul winning. We have a cause to send out missionaries. We have a cause for our food bank. We have a cause for the prison ministries. We have a cause for the nursing home ministries. We always have a cause. Thank God for it, because it is a wonderful, marvelous, glorious privilege to be used for God's

cause.

I consider it a privilege to stand before my congregation. What a privilege it is to proclaim this message. What a privilege it is to serve a God who still has a cause.