

FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
WINTER BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24TH 2019
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LESSON TITLE: THE CAUSE OF GOD.

Introduction: Like many words in the English Language, the word cause can be used in various ways. **Cause:** (1) The reason or motive that urges, moves, or impels the mind to act or decide. (2) That which someone pursues. In this lesson, I ask you to consider three things: (1) God has a reason or purpose for all the mighty works He does and has done. (2) That which God primarily chose to accomplish. (3) The importance of God's people laboring for the advancement of His cause.

The theme for this series of lessons is the **Attributes of God.** Attribute: **Quality, Characteristic.** An attribute is generally a quality or characteristic that someone has, however, in this lesson, I would like to speak of one of the attributes of God being a characteristic or quality He doesn't have. One of His many attributes, is that God is never aimless, chaotic, or haphazard. He never does anything and says; well I don't know why I did that! All that He has done in the past, all that He is doing in the present, all that He will do in the future, He does with great purpose.

In creation, we read in Genesis 1: 14-15: *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

Matthew 5: 45: Jesus said this about our Heavenly Father: *for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Isaiah 55: 8-11: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.*

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it might give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

In eternity, before God created the world, He had a plan, and had determined exactly how He would accomplish it.

Acts 2: 22&23 says: *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. Now to prove this took place before

time even began, look at 1st Peter 1: 18-20: *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*

God's plan was motivated by His love for us!

John 3: 16&17 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Galatians 4: 4&5: *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

In God's word, we have many scriptures, such as these, that are two fold. They speak of what God did, and, what he purposed to accomplish by what He did.

When Jesus was in the world, He was completely sold out to the Cause of God.

At the young age of 12. (Luke 2: 41-49)

Around the age of 30. (John 4: 27-34)

When it became very difficult for Him. (John 12:27)

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.

When He was before Pilate in the hall of judgment: (John 18: 33-37)

When He began to show His disciples what He must do. (Matthew 16:21-23)

In Titus 2: 11-14, Paul wrote: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Jesus is always our primary example. And just as He was sold out to the advancement

of His Father's cause, his children must be also, if we are to serve Him properly.

In 1st Samuel 17, we have the account of David, in his youth, being sent by his father to the place where Israel was about to engage in battle against the Philistines, and when he became aware of the challenge issued by Goliath, the scriptures tell us this:

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

*And David said, What have I now done? **Is there not a cause?***

For God's people, there is a cause, **The Great Cause!** Nothing should be more important to us in this life than laboring for the **Cause of God!** Again, Jesus said His reason for being here was to do His Father's will, and His Father's work. That's why we were here also. Listen, if there was not a great work to be done, there's really no reason for the children of God to be here. We have an eternal home in heaven with God that is far better than this earthly home. If there was not a cause, it would be great for us to just go and be with the Lord!!

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12: 13&14: *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.*

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

In Acts 1: 8, this is what Jesus told His church: *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; **and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

In Matthew 28: 18-20, it is stated in these words: *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

1st Corinthians 3: 9: *For we are **labourers** together with God: ye are God's husbandry, (tillers of His ground), ye are God's building.*

Conclusion: Philippians 2: 25-30: Paul wrote to them about Epaphroditus.

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

For the cause of God, the work itself is more important than the workers. We need to labor with the mindset that this cause is not about us it's about the Lord. As it was said by John the Baptist, (John 3:30) *He must increase, but I must decrease.*