

The Believer's Cause: Respond to Preaching

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I. *Is there not a cause?* (A life that is given to a God-given cause is a life worth living)

A. David

1Sa 17:29 And David said...*Is there not a cause?* ...

B. Isaiah: A prophet with a cause

Isa 6:8 ...Here *am* I; send me.

C. Jeremiah: A preacher with a cause

Jer 20:9 ...*his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones...

D. Peter and Andrew: Two brothers with a cause

Mat 4:20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

E. Paul: A man with a cause worth living for—A cause worth dying for

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

F. Unnamed others: Who suffered and died for a cause

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings...

Heb 11:37 They were stoned...sawn asunder...slain with the sword...afflicted, tormented;

G. Ezekiel: A God-called man with a God-given cause (*that became a wife-giving cause*)

Eze 24:16 ...behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke...

Eze 24:24 Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign...

H. Peter: A God-called man with a God-given cause (*that became a life-giving cause*)

2Pe 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

I. Jesus: A God-given man with two God-given causes (*that became life-giving causes*)

Joh 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.

Joh 18:37 ...Jesus answered...**for this cause** came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.

II. In a world full of vanity—Christians have the God-given opportunity of ‘causes’

A. Preaching and preserving the true gospel is a God-given cause for the church

2Ti 1:12 **For the which cause** I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

B. Responding to the preached word of truth is a God-given cause for the believer

1Th 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.

C. Picturing Jesus to the world is a God-given cause for the family

Eph 5:31 **For this cause** shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

D. Continuing in the cause of Christ is a God-given cause for the Christian

2Co 4:16 **For which cause** we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

III. Responding to the preached word of truth is a God-given cause for the believer

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A. The incredible response from the church at Thessalonica

1Th 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power...

1Th 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord...

1Th 1:7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

1Th 1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

1Th 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1Th 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

1Th 2:5 For neither at any time used we flattering words...

1Th 2:6 Nor of men sought we glory...

1Th 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

1Th 2:8 ...we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

1Th 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

1Th 2:10 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

1Th 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1Th 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.

B. Spirit empowered preaching has a life-changing effect on the believer

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1Co 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

1Co 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us...

Gal 5:6 ...faith which worketh by love.

C. After hearing and believing in Jesus—Our 'how-we-live-life' options are reduced

Act 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...

Joh 6:68 ...Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Jos 24:15 ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

D. Come to Jesus—And be baptized

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized...

Act 8:36 ...the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Act 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized...

Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized...

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins...

1Pe 3:21 ...baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,)...

Mat 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee...

Mat 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Mat 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

E. After being baptized—We are to learn more about Jesus

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

IV. *Is there not a cause?*

1Th 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.