

THE CAUSE AND I

John 18:37, John 12:27

John 18:37. Then Jesus answered:
To this end was I born, and for this Cause came I into the world that I should bear witness unto the truth.

John 12:27
Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say. Father, ~~me~~ save me from this hour....but for this Cause came I unto this hour.

The most marvelous, indescribable, indefinable being who ever graced this mundane sphere with His magnetic presence is Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God.

The words of my texts fell from his lips on two of the most significant occasions in his life on this earth.

Standing at the outer court of the temple among a hostile people who had rejected their king, and were at that very moment plotting his death, a delegation of dignitaries from far away Greece had come to take him to their home land to be their teacher, to let him live, to escape the cross, to honor and exhalt him, and for a moment, he seemed to hesitate in his decision.

But out of dim and distant antiquity, he heard the voice of the prime mover of all creation echoing through the corridor of the ages, reminding him ~~and~~ of his mission of destiny.

Thus He answered back to the eternal ages...not to just those standing by:

"For this Cause Came I unto this hour."

"Father, Glorify thy name!..as if to say, I haven't forgotten our agreement. I remember our plan before mountains were brought forth, before the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy.

Then God spoke out so loudly until all heard him...
"I have glorified it and I'll glorify it again."

The people were startled and some said, "An angel spoke to him...but he said, "That was my Father, and he did *NAT*

speak for my benefit. He spoke for your sakes.

He knows I'll not fail him...He knows I'll put the Cause above my own desires..."But I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

Calvary must be, the grain of wheat must die.

For..."In the Cross of Christ I glory
Towering o'er the wrecks of time
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

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See from his head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

The second statement of the text came during the shameful and ignominious trial of this Royal personage from the world of eternal lights.

He had endured a mock indignity and was finally alone in a private room being interigated by Pontius Pilot.

"Art thou a King, he asked? "Thou sayest that I am a King" is the reply from the King James version.

Another translation comes nearer the true meaning, "Thou sayest well, for I am a King."

He continues with possibly the most timely, ~~un~~significant and graphic utterance ever made.

"It reaches into the bosoms of two long eternities and draws them together and fastens them to the little isthmus of time, that mortal creatures may rise from the dust and ashes of earth to climb the golden stairway of Redemption into the bliss of the everlasting ages.

"To this END was I born...For this CAUSE came I into the world...that I should bear witness to THE TRUTH.

On three words in this statement hangs the destiny of all worlds...the words END...CAUSE...TRUTH

His acknowledgement of his KINGSHIP is the assumption before the tribunal of the whole world that he was and would forever remain its king.

1. We have his clear admission to his humanity.

a. To this end was I born...Here he asserts his birth as a man (a woman was his mother).

2. He does not stop with this assertion which would have saved his life...but He made the ultimate claim that nailed Him to the Cross.

a. "For this Cause came I into the world." ... I was not only born. I was ONE with the Father, who is the Great FIRST CAUSE. the PRIME MOVER OF ALL OTHER EXISTANCE." I came into this world from another world. "Before Abraham was, I AM."

b. I am the one who spoke these worlds into existence. I was in the beginning with God.

c. I lived and reigned and ruled co-equal with the Father before the Incarnation.

d. I came into this world from a Divine World by a DIVINE PLAN for a DIVINE CAUSE, to a DIVINE END.

(1) - He clearly separates two things:

(a) Being born of a woman

(b) Coming into the world.

(2) He came into this world for a Cause

(3) He chose the method of entrance by way of a physical birth.

He Came to bear WITNESS TO THE TRUTH.

What truth? ...ALL TRUTH!

THE CAUSE AND I - 4

THE CREATOR, SUSTAINER
+ UPHOLDER OF ALL THINGS

- 1. OMNIPOTENT
- 2. OMNIPRESENT
- 3. OMNISCIENT

1. The truth that there is a God.
2. That there is a principal Cause behind everything
(THE CAUSE IS GOD)
3. That God is Love
4. That He can and will forgive sins.
5. That he can and will heal the sick
6. That He wills that all men should be saved.
7. That there is a heaven for the righteous
8. That there is a hell for the wicked
9. That he can and will answer prayer.
10. That the curse of sin did not destroy God's ideal plan for the human family...but rather became the occasion for the unfolding of the great scheme of Redemption.
11. That death is not the end.
12. That

"Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not its goal
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul."

13. This Cause that brought me into this world is the greatest thought ever conceived by the Divine Trinity... and that it will take another eternity to unfold what was conceived in the councils of Diety before the foundation of the world.

14. This being true, He came to be a witness to that truth that we might share with Him and the Father the glories that were theirs before creation dawned.

He is saying...I am a King...I am creator of all things.. I made the stars, moon, worlds, planets, earth, seas, and skies...but I have ~~x~~ conceived a Cause that is GREATER THAN I.

A Cause so great that I gave up a palace for a hovel of poverty.

I gave up the service of Angels to be a companion of sinners. I gave up the riches of a glory world to toil like a slave in a carpenter's shop.

THE CAUSE AND I - 5

I gave up a throne of unlimited power to hang on a Cross.

I gave up a crown of gold and glory to wear the plaited thorns.

I gave up thorough-fare of gold for dusty roads and cobble-stone streets.

I gave up the homage of cherubims to be spit upon by the scum of the earth.

I gave up a land by the River of Life for parched lips and a swollen tongue on Calvary's blistering brow.

I gave up heaven's best for Hell's worst.

I gave up the love of God for the hate of hypocrites.

I gave up the loyalty and praise of a heavenly host for the kiss of Judas.

All this, I did...for a CAUSE. That CAUSE meant more to me than all these. That CAUSE is GREATER THAN I!

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If this is His estimate of the CAUSE, where do we stand tonight?

What have we done about it...What will we do about it?

af This timeless utterance of Jesus bears the connotation sequence and significance.

He did not come to Calvary as an unwilling martyr and the sequence did not end at three o'clock when he died.

This Celestial traveler only paused for a moment on this fallen world to bid us join him in his journey to lands of endless day.

He only stopped long enough to lead captivity captive and give gifts to men...but in passing, he did not forget to give Satan his mortal wound and deliver to us the keys of the kingdom.

It is our responsibility to see that the Cause shall never perish from the earth...but like Him, we are expected to completely lose ourselves in it and give it all we have.

Their motto is
Like Churchill...I Can only promise you blood, sweat and tears, but after that a free England.
in the darkest hour of England's life

Jesus calls on us for sacrifice, service, and self-denial...but after that, the glory.

The Cause has its roots in two eternities. Time is an isthmus between them. The Cause stretches from age to age, from eternity to eternity...

...and we stand for a flickering moment between the two, then we pass into infinity.

What we do now with respect to the Cause will determine what eternity will be for us when time is a story.

Someone has said LIFE IS
~~Life is like the philosophers:~~ "Like a bird flying into a window out of the night into a lighted room, and on through another, out into the dark on the other side.

That is not the Christian's faith...there is no dark out there. "There is a light in the valley now for me, since Jesus Came into my heart"

Ad Lib.
Columbus and the floating green twig.

There is another world out there somewhere. We have the evidence. "He came to bear witness"

It has always been out there prepared for the Redeemed. Calvary was not an afterthought...not an improvised scheme, rushed into by a surprised Creator. It was not a fire escape or a second best.

Sin did not force God into an emergency measure. Sin only became the occasion for Christ to come to this world to prove to men what God was really like and to bear witness to the truth.

God had provided for every eventuality long before the flowers bloomed in Eden, and the fruit hung tempting on the tree of life.

Before sin ever came, God had the remedy.

Before the disease ever existed, there was the cure.

Before the ills of evil spread, there was the panacea
BEFORE HE MADE MEN CAPABLE OF SINNING
God had made provision for the end, before he created
the beginning. HE PREPARED HIS SALVATION

It is ours for the asking

Not even the angels will fully enjoy what Redemption
will mean to us.

BEFORE HE MADE THE FISH-WATER WAS
PROVIDED FOR THEM TO SWIM IN.

BEFORE HE CREATED THE BIRDS THE AIR
WAS PROVIDED FOR THEM TO FLY IN.

BEFORE THE ANIMALS WERE CREATED
FOOD WAS PROVIDED TO SUSTAIN THEM.