

# **Greatness ... By a Great Cause**

***“Is There Not a Cause?”***

**Young David in I Samuel 17:29**

# **Every Christian Should Be Great**

- **Life is too short to waste it being average.**
- **It is certainly not hard to be above average.**
- **The rewards are excellent for being above average.**
- **The motives and rewards are highest for the Christian.**
- **Why would any Christian settle for merely an average life?**

# Consider Paul

- **I labored more abundantly than they all (I Cor 15:10).**
- **I was not a whit behind the chiefest apostles (II Cor 11:5).**
- **In nothing am I behind the chiefest apostles (II Cor 12:11).**
- **Are they ministers of Christ? I am more (II Cor 11:23).**
- **I fought a good fight, finished my course, kept the faith.**

# What Is Greatness?

- **The world's ideas are only ... vanity and vexation of spirit!**
- **Worldlings are generally frustrated – and then go to hell!**
- **We measure greatness by God's description in scripture.**
- **To max God's favor ... man's favor ... return on pound, etc.**
- **For a full explanation, see the study ... [Make Your Life Count](#).**

# Greatness Requires a Great Cause

- **Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.**
- **This is even true of reprobates, for they have great men.**
- **Immaturity and selfishness reduces greatness for all men.**
- **Demented psychologists may confound it as *altruism*.**
- **Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.**

# Greatness Is Lost Without a Cause

- Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.
- Greatness involves sacrificial choices – requiring a cause.
- With no great cause outside themselves, men are selfish.
- Selfishness leads to foolish choices costing greatness.
- Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.

# **Even Reprobates Have Great Causes**

- **The great ones among them are driven by a great cause.**
- **William Wallace (Braveheart) had a cause ... “Freedom!”**
- **Robin Hood had what cause? ... Transfer wealth to poor!**
- **Alexander the Great had a cause ... Revenge on Persia!**
- **Adolph Hitler had what cause? ... Aryan dream of 1000yrs!**

# Reprobates Often Shame Us - 1

- **They will sacrifice most anything for their cause. Will you?**
- **Japanese *kamikaze* pilots died in a losing cause for sake!**
- **Muslim *jihad* terrorists kill themselves for a moon god!**
- **Priests and nuns swear *celibacy* and *poverty* for a fairy!**
- **What do you sacrifice to prove you serve Christ's kingdom?**













# **Reprobates Often Shame Us - 2**

- **Mormon young men (18-20) give two years to missions.**
- **They live two years doing daily evangelism in distant cities.**
- **They do this at their own expense for travel and all costs.**
- **They tell a Mormon fable about Joe and Jews and Indians.**
- **They may be ridiculed and despised by many, but they do it.**











# **Reprobates Often Shame Us - 3**

- **Secret Service men will take a bullet for the president.**
- **The president will change several times in their careers.**
- **They cannot choose the president they take a bullet for.**
- **Arminian missionaries will go to the Amazon for a lifetime.**
- **Their god is native freewill – our God is sovereign Saviour.**



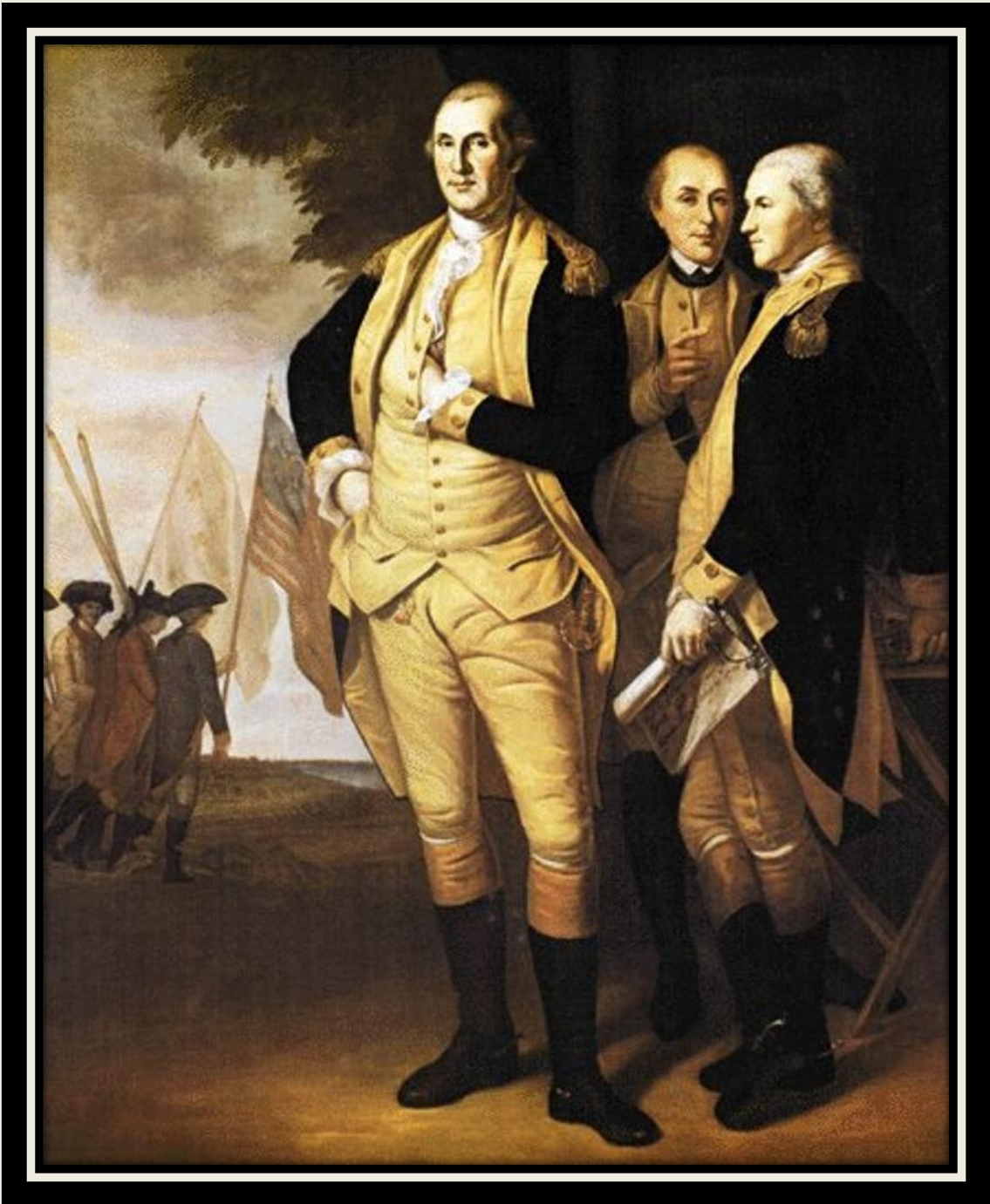




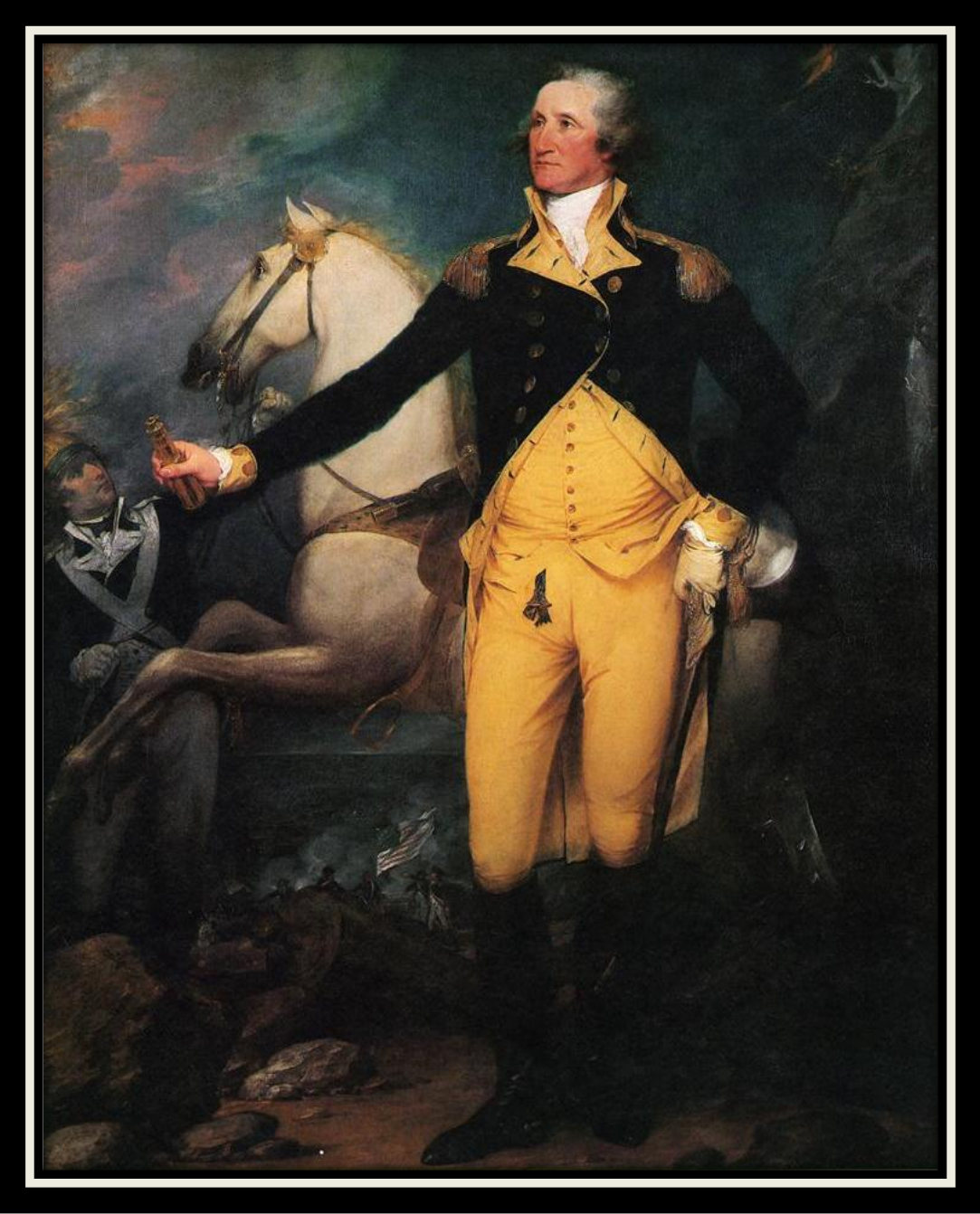




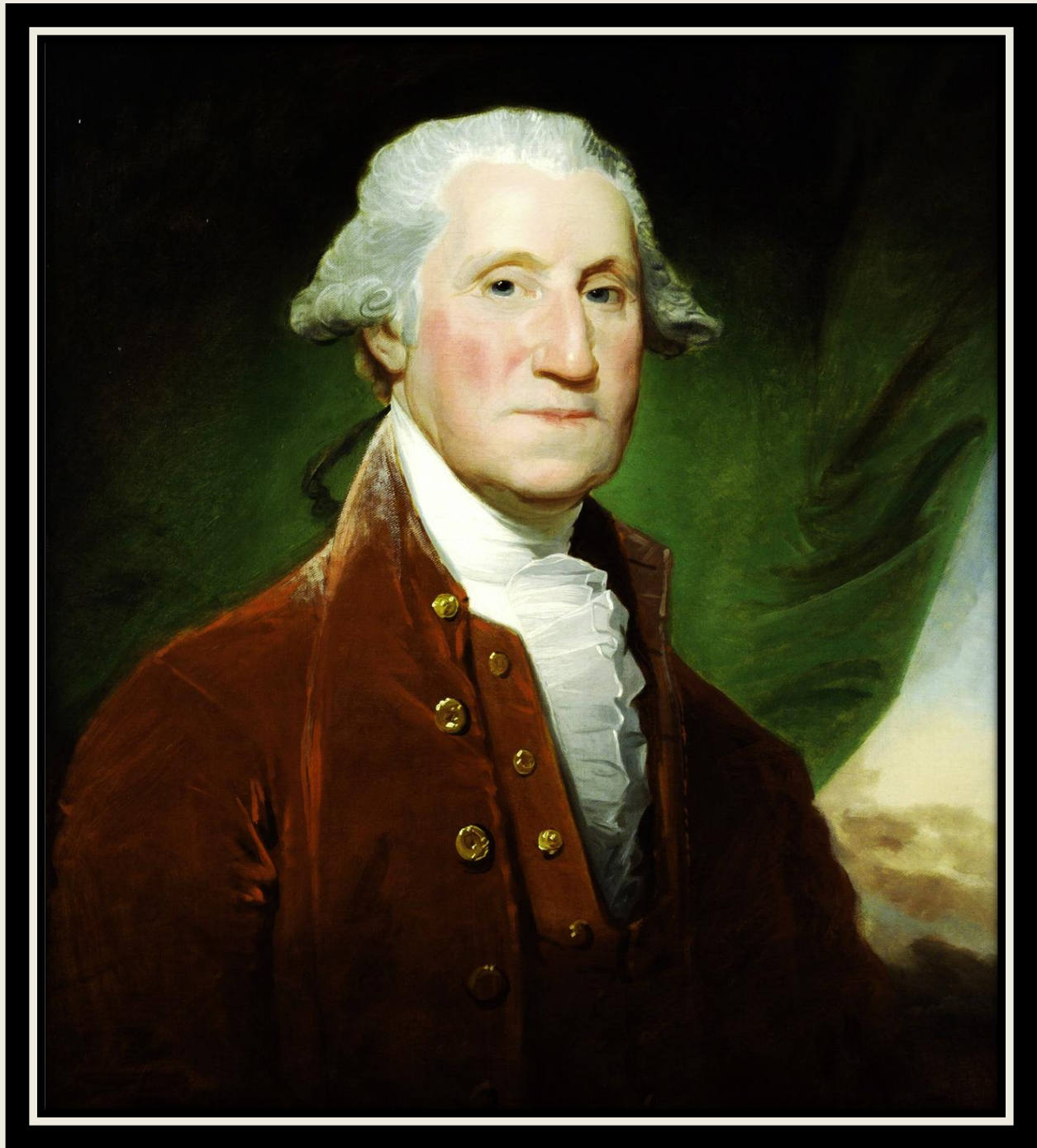






























# George Washington

- **The “father of the nation,” first president, and great man.**
- **He was a courier, scout, soldier, general, president, etc.**
- **The squabbling nation had total trust in him for anything.**
- **His character was impeccable with faithfulness and zeal.**
- **What was his cause? A sacrificial concern for this nation.**

# **Most Do Not Have a Cause**

- **All children are born with one only ambition – themselves.**
- **At 10, they still only think of themselves, except for rules.**
- **At 20, it is nearly too late to get a cause, if they have none.**
- **They are self-centered, pleasure-mad, short-termers, etc.**
- **Parents grieve at immaturity ... for all fools lack a cause.**



# **No Cause Leaves Men Boys**

- **There are many 40-year-old boys still playing boy games.**
- **They never got a vision of anything greater than their fun.**
- **They might work hard ... but they do it mainly for money.**
- **They might serve well ... but they do it mainly for praise.**
- **Without a cause, a man will grow up prioritizing by self.**

# **Do Not Confuse Goals with a Cause**

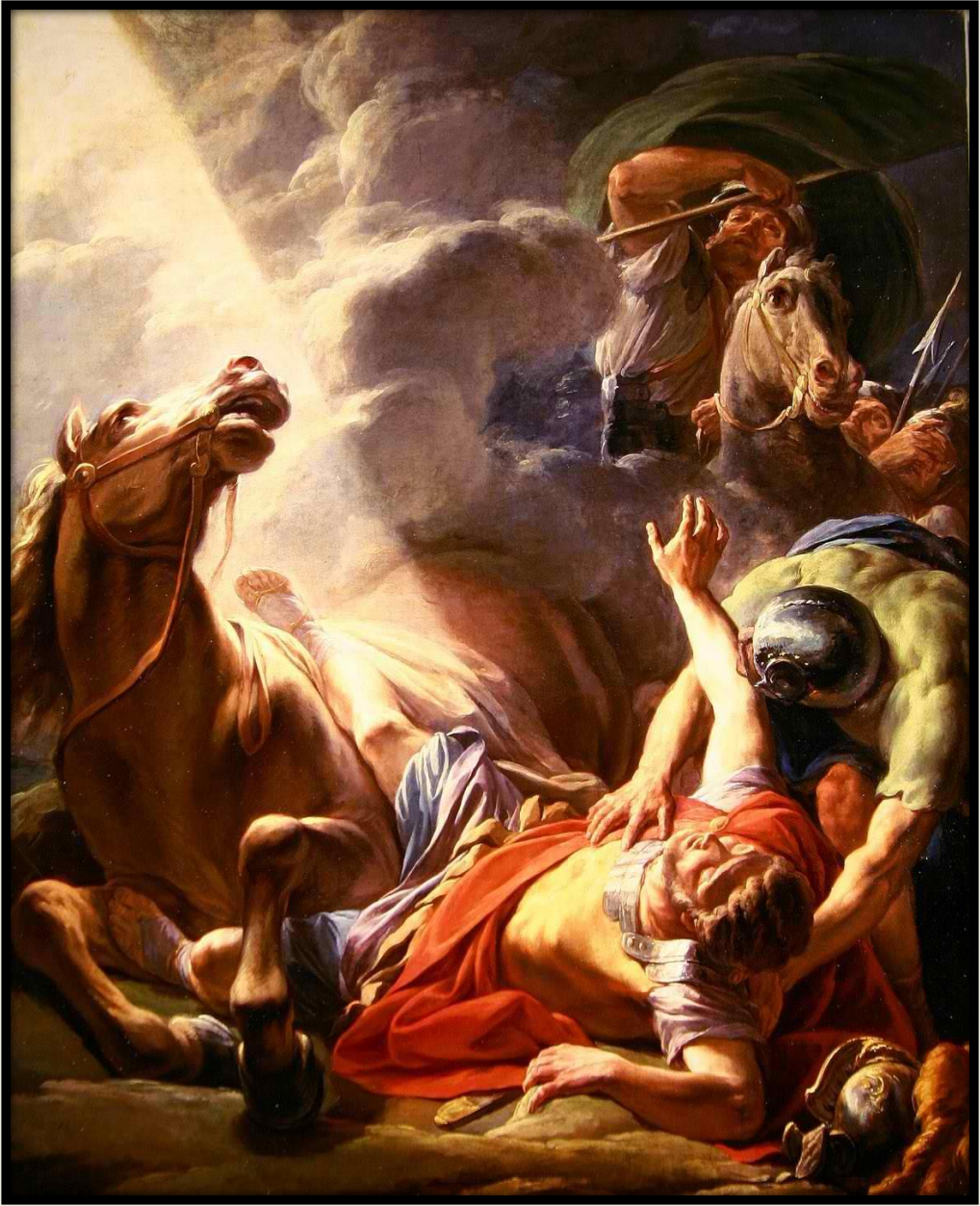
- **The goal to be cool ... is only a selfish, idiotic, un-cause.**
- **The goal to be cool ... rich ... successful ... is not a cause.**
- **A cause as we define it here must be fully outside yourself.**
- **A goal no matter how good ... around you ... is not a cause.**
- **A cause here is a thing ... much larger ... and outside you.**

# **A Cause Will Change a Man**

- **Many boys never grow up, for they do not have a cause.**
- **As soon as a boy gets a cause, he can become a real man.**
- **His choices switch from self to the cause, no matter what.**
- **Immaturity is a man holding on to childish things of self.**
- **Greater the cause or commitment, greater the man. Glory!**

# **What a Cause Can Do!**

- **Consider the martyrs – how could they cheerfully burn?**
- **Athletes – possibly for country – deny and train extremely.**
- **For a kingdom, a prince's life is totally altered from others.**
- **To win a battle or silence a gun crew, some quickly die.**
- **To save lives, consider doctors, police, firefighters, etc.**



# **Paul Always Had a Great Cause**

- **He loved the LORD Jehovah and His religion from his youth.**
- **He thought he should persecute Christians for God's sake.**
- **His great cause, with a conscience, made him a great Jew.**
- **But Jesus Christ revealed to Him God's cause in full truth.**
- **He became the greatest apostle by his new great cause.**

# **Paul Was Exceptional**

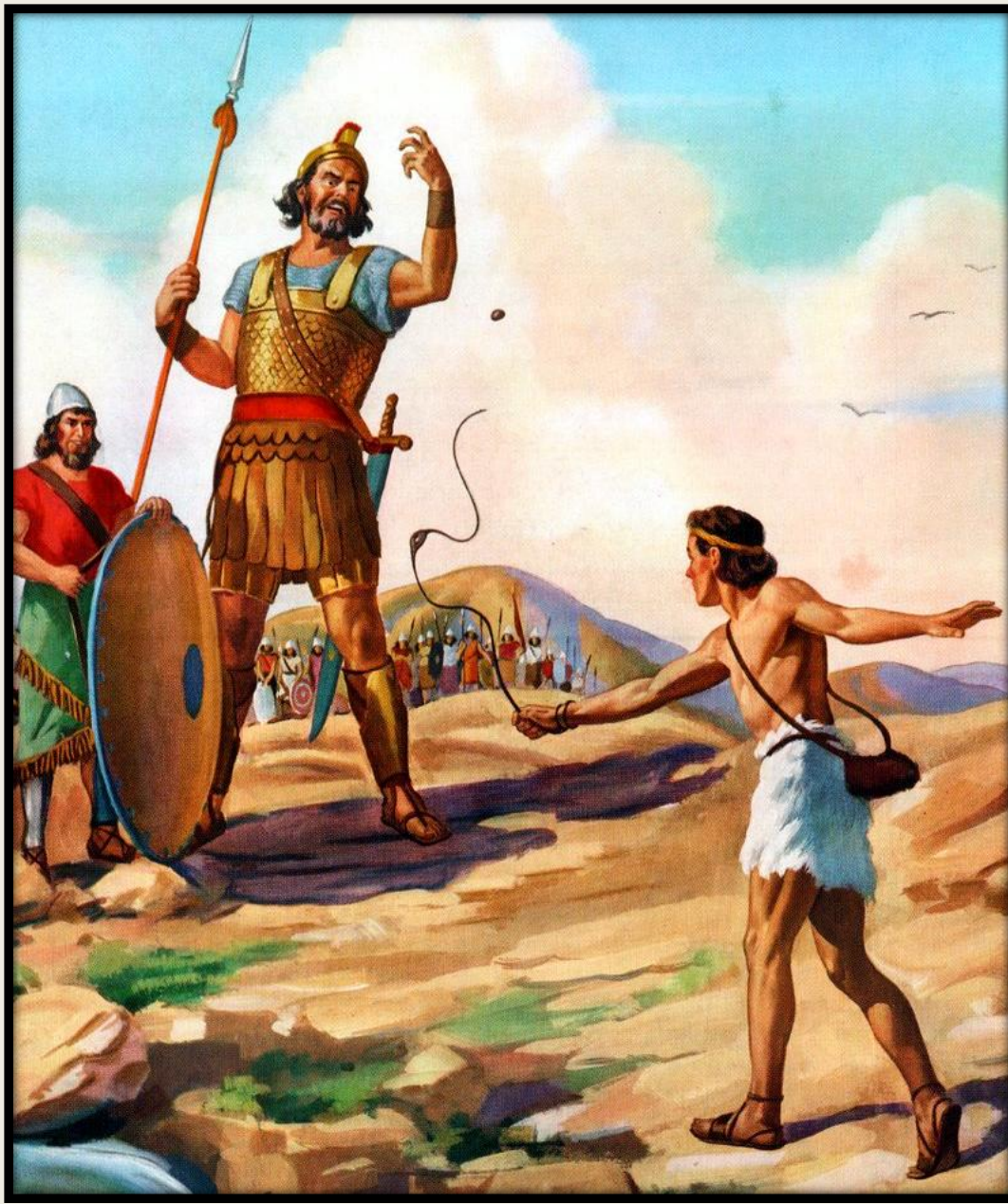
- **The cause of Christ was greater to him than anything.**
- **Therefore, he could keep his body under and deny himself.**
- **Therefore, he was usually disappointed with other men.**
- **Therefore, he did not have a wife, home, hobby, or iPhone.**
- **Therefore, he was willing to live or die for Christ his Lord.**







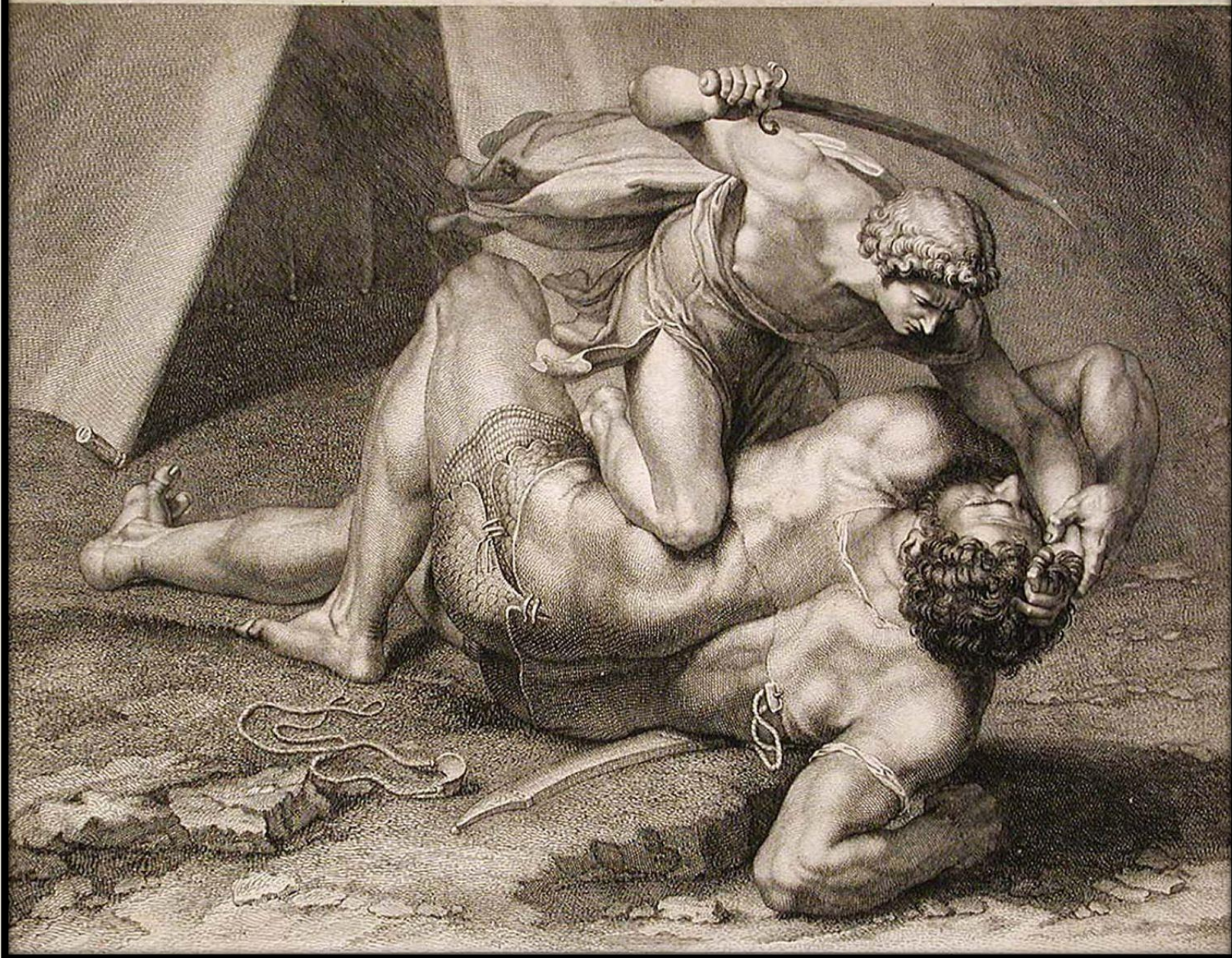














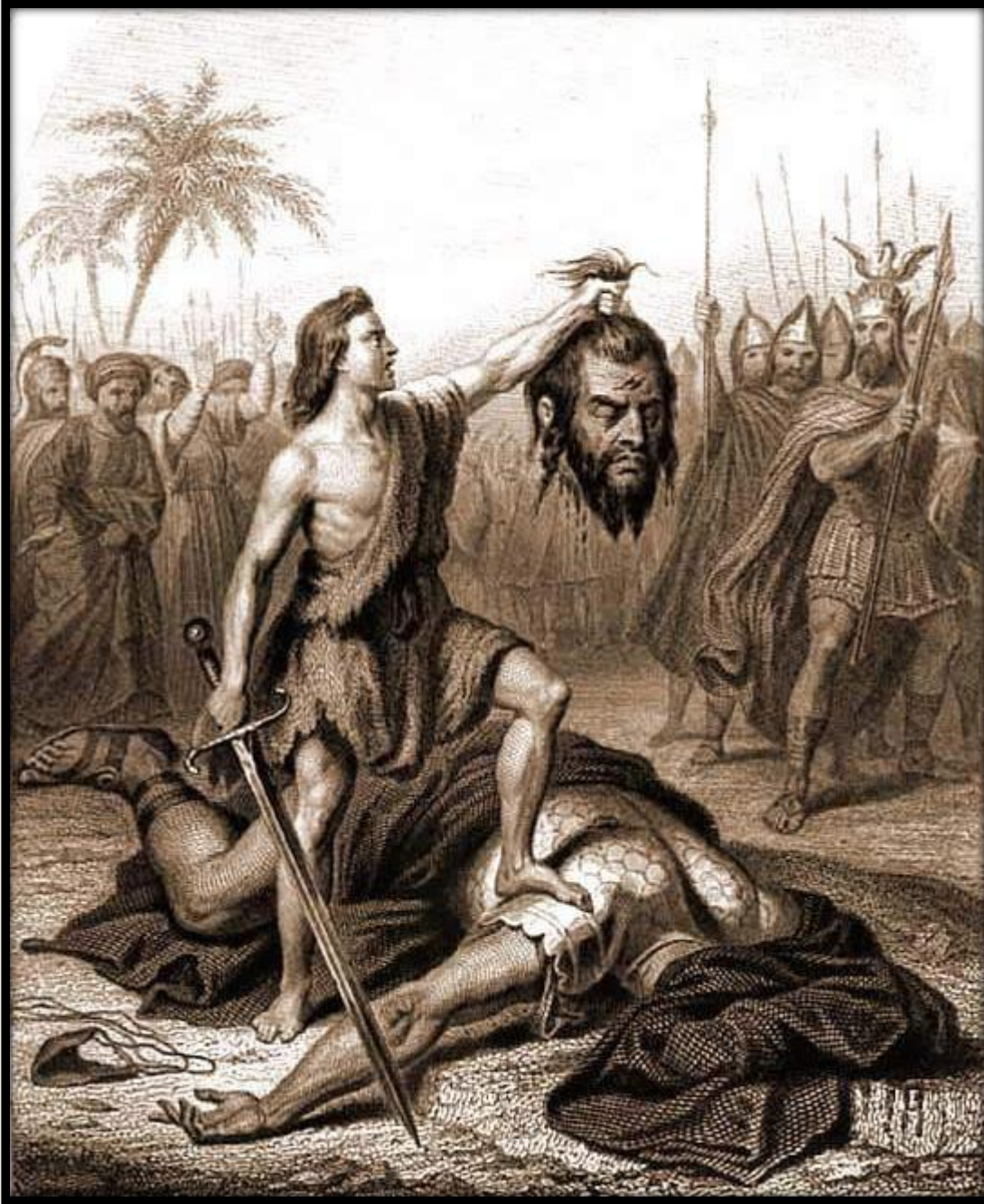






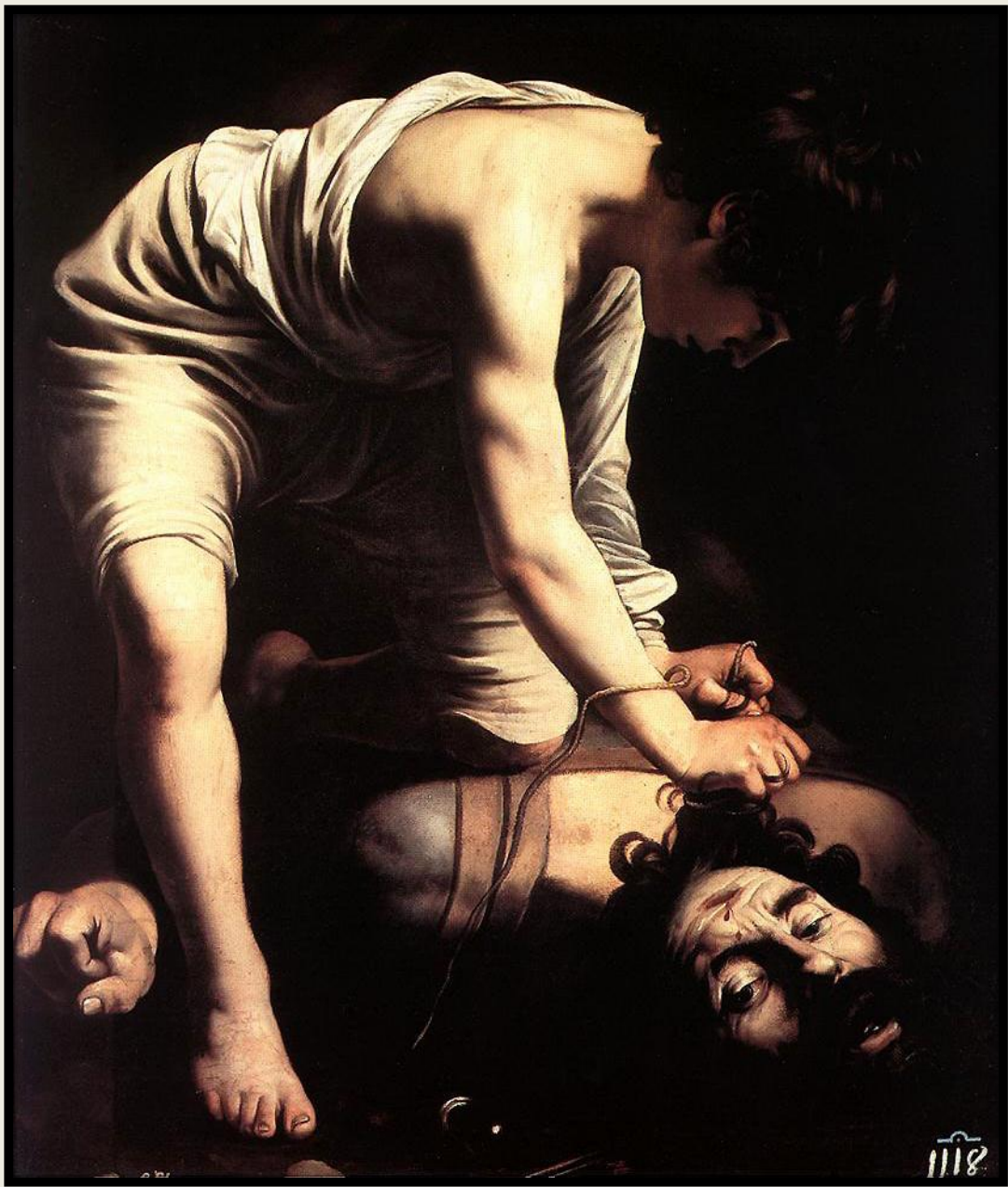






















# **David Was Great with God and Men**

- **He was the man after God's own heart ... he replaced Saul.**
- **God liked him (1 Chr 28:4) ... and delighted in him (Ps 18:19).**
- **Jesus is called the Son of David and even David (Jer 30:9).**
- **He gat himself a name ... and his name was much set by.**
- **His zeal for God's house and worship was exceptional.**

# Why Was David Greater than Others?

- **Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.**
- **He loved Jehovah and delighted in Him unlike other men.**
- **David loved God's word and delighted in it unlike others.**
- **David loved God's house and worship unlike other men.**
- **David loved the kingdom of God and its future glory much.**

# David Heard Goliath

- **Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.**
- **He could not grasp the army would let Goliath blaspheme.**
- **Especially with the rewards offered by fearful King Saul.**
- **His brother Eliab, shamed by his questions, ridiculed him.**
- **David's response was perfect, *"Is there not a cause?"***



# Is There Not a Cause?

- **Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.**
- **David was not interested in fame, rank, prestige, pay, etc.**
- **He loved Israel's God, Jehovah, and he hated His enemies.**
- **This life-risking passion for Jehovah drove David and Paul.**
- **He could face Goliath ... or dance in the street like a fool.**

# God's Cause Was Preeminent

- Great men live by a cause greater than themselves.
- He humbly answered Saul's query as merely Jesse's son.
- He did not think himself worthy to marry Saul's daughter.
- He did not mind paying for a temple named after his son.
- He did not mind dying a family failure with God's promise.

# You Face a New Goliath - 1

- We live in the perilous times of the last days ... **perilous!**
- Christians have compromised holy living until all is liberty.
- The cause driving most Christians is *lovers of pleasures.*
- Their cause will not allow them to endure *sound doctrine.*
- To serve God you must be **different** and will be **persecuted.**



# **You Face a New Goliath - 2**

- **Will you despise all jesting and foolish talk to be sober?**
- **Will you continue in a church with two, two-hour services?**
- **Will you hate worldly music and faithless entertainment?**
- **Will you get involved and serve the kingdom every week?**
- **Will you reject worldly friends for only those that love God?**

# **What Makes You Like Eliab?**

- **Most men are like Eliab ... lacking drive by a great cause.**
- **You think selling out for Jesus and holy living is extreme.**
- **You cannot think outside the bonds of your lusts and pride.**
- **The “cause” to you is a mental assent mainly on Sundays.**
- **Work, wife, workout, school, fun, toys, and such drive you.**

# **David Was a Stud – Eliab a Dud!**

- **He was the oldest and best of Jesse's sons. So what!**
- **He worked harder than the rest in the army. So what!**
- **He took good care of Daddy by writing monthly. So what!**
- **He took breaks to relax himself and have fun. So what!**
- **When a challenge came, he had no reason to risk himself.**



# **Other Bible Examples - 1**

- **Why did Phinehas react with zeal against fornicators?**
- **Why did Jonathan not fear taking on a Philistine garrison?**
- **How did three Hebrew men defy the livid Nebuchadnezzar?**
- **Why did Esther and Mordecai risk her life so boldly?**
- **Why did Jesus use a scourge ... and allow an unjust death?**

# **Other Bible Examples - 2**

- **Anna spend her life fasting and praying in the temple.**
- **Peter denied Jesus and His cause ... but wept bitterly.**
- **Fifty days later he boldly declared Him and His cause.**
- **What caused Joseph to deny Mrs. Potiphar's advances?**
- **Why did Moses blow off the riches and pleasures of Egypt?**

# The Greatest Cause

- **Makes the greatest men of all time ... in the Hall of Faith.**
- **It is good to be zealously affected always in a good cause.**
- **The cause of Christ our King demolishes all other causes.**
- **Paul saw the cause clearly and helped teach it to Timothy.**
- **A “man in Christ” wrote an English paper of the Great Awakening’s effect on the American Revolution ... a cause of God’s sovereignty!**



# **Our Cause Is the Greatest**

- **The true God – Jehovah and His glorious Son Jesus Christ!**
- **The truth of the universe on all topics natural or spiritual!**
- **Redemption, justification, adoption from doom to sons!**
- **Immortality and eternal heaven with God forever and ever!**
- **Final and ultimate victory over all enemies of all kinds!**

# Think of Recent Preaching

- **The kingdom of God is to be first in your life (Matt 6:33).**
- **You have a charge ... Occupy till I come (Luke 19:11-27).**
- **Character is the rules of conduct you live by for your king.**
- **Paul gives you an example second to none of a cause.**
- **Patriarchy calls for Christian men to man up for godliness.**

# **It Totally Consumed Paul**

- **Since we must give an account, the terror persuaded him.**
- **Since Jesus Christ died for him, the love constrained him.**
- **He counted all things, even his religious things, as dung!**
- **He did not care whether he honored Christ by life or death.**
- **His resume lists accomplishments shaming us all as Eliabs!**



# **It Should Consume You**

- **Which do you prefer, past or future (Rom 12:1-2; I Jn 3:1-3)?**
- **Jesus is precious or a stone of stumbling. Which to you?**
- **Are you willing to do anything, or give up anything, easily?**
- **You will be different from others and subject to ridicule.**
- **Jehovah seeks a man, not a crowd, to stand (Ezek 22:30).**

# **There Are Great Risks - 1**

- **God's cause has great power, wisdom, and reward for you!**
- **Your cause has delusional power, wisdom, and reward!**
- **God's cause has supernatural (and natural) advantages.**
- **Your cause has supernatural (and natural) disadvantages.**
- **World mocks living for God; God mocks living for the world!**

# **There Are Great Risks - 2**

- **Being foolish in youth seems okay ... regret is coming fast!**
- **Your good friends hate belly-worshippers; you'll lose them.**
- **Only losers love belly-worshippers; they are all you'll have.**
- **If you save your life, you lose it; if you lose it, you'll find it.**
- **A terrible day is coming – you will answer for every choice.**



# **A Life Example - Your Job**

- **How will you work at your job tomorrow, and why?**
- **Losers work to be seen and please men for advancement.**
- **Christians may work a little harder, for the same reason.**
- **Our cause teaches obedience and diligence much higher!**
- **It is to the Lord, who also rewards far better (Col 3:22-25).**

# **A Life Example - Your Marriage**

- **You marry only the spiritually best with great fear of God.**
- **You lead the marriage by faith for both to grow in Christ.**
- **You and your wife serve Christ and His people all the time.**
- **You only have children for kingdom purposes, or you don't.**
- **Together you train children to have the same great cause.**

# **A Life Example - Your Friends**

- **You reject any and all friends not fearing God (Ps 101:2-11).**
- **You choose only friends with passionate love for Christ.**
- **You choose only friends craving God's word and keeping it.**
- **When you gather with them, the focus is always spiritual.**
- **The emphasis, even with friends, is to serve them, not you.**

# **A Life Example - Your Church**

- **The church, the body, is Christ's – the temple of Jehovah.**
- **You pray, prepare, and participate fully in all assemblies.**
- **You emphasize every “one another” duty to whole family.**
- **You zealously serve it in every way you can find or create.**
- **You make the worship and church life the best it can be.**



# **Life Examples - Everything**

- **How do you drive? Every driving choice is for the cause.**
- **What is your entertainment? Is it all chosen to honor God?**
- **Marital sex is to please the King through His daughter.**
- **You play less and work and serve for most waking hours.**
- **You devise liberal things for God's glory and those in need.**
- **Though rulers may be basest of men, you honor for God.**
- **You are conservative in Christian liberty and offend none.**
- **Praise, singing, and worship for you is beyond just church.**
- **No enemy, regardless, moves you to compromise truth.**
- **You are a tree of life to all and win souls where possible.**

# What Should You Do? - 1

- **Examine yourself as to whether you are a reprobate or not.**
- **Agree the cause needs a total lifestyle – not just Sundays.**
- **Are you living the “mighty man’s life” in whole or in part?**
- **Give up anything not maxing God’s cause no matter what.**
- **Be as temperate as an Olympic athlete denying yourself.**

# **What Should You Do? - 2**

- **Show and teach your children to be kingdom servants.**
- **Or they will grow up to be self-centered, carnal Christians.**
- **Great delight in singing, contrary to most worship, is part.**
- **Forgiving others, no matter how offended, is for the Lord.**
- **Hospitality is no longer a burden or cost but a privilege!**

# **What Should You Do? - 3**

- **Working to have money for the Lord is the goal (Eph 4:28).**
- **Every Christian duty takes on a new life and purpose!**
- **Training children is not for you or them ... but the kingdom.**
- **Youth group is not for you – it is for the King and others!**
- **Loving brethren and serving them is promoting a kingdom.**



# **What Should You Do? - 4**

- **The five inputs are actually for the King against Satan!**
- **Is your life motivated, structured, and executed for Christ?**
- **Go out of here tonight to make every choice for the cause.**
- **Live life minute by minute in light of our glorious cause.**
- **If you opt out ... you are an immature boy belly-worshipper!**

# **Our Cause Is the Only Cause**

- **All but Jehovah and His Son Jesus Christ is lying vanity!**
- **Every holy book but the King James Bible is twaddle!**
- **All the best of earth is only vanity and vexation of spirit!**
- **Christ died for us (love); He is coming to judge (terror).**
- **Eternal inheritance with Christ crushes any cause or goal.**

# For Further Study

- [Measuring Your Life](#)
- [Spiritual Adultery](#)
- [A Mighty Man's Life](#)
- [A Mighty Man's Life](#)
- ["Is There Not a Cause"](#)
- [Occupy Till I Come](#)

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