

“Bring It B4 God”

Howell’s Mill Christian Assembly – Tweens, Teens, & Others
February 8, 2020

Richard A. Knopp, M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.

Professor of Philosophy & Christian Apologetics

Program Director, Room For Doubt (www.roomfordoubt.com)

Event Webpage (Handouts and Relevant Resources): www.worldvieweyes.org/HMCA.html

Email: rknopp@lincolnchristian.edu

Lincoln Christian University

QR Code to access the Room For Doubt App



Introduction

- A. Supercool spiritual experiences (Ex. 34:29).
- B. The problem with spiritual highs are often followed by spiritual lows.
- C. A **TARGET** to aim at and a **Tool** to use.
- D. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. (The Message)

- E. The **TARGET** (Mark 12:30; Matt. 22:37; Luke 10:27).
 - 1. The “greatest commandment”: Learn to LOVE God with all you are.
- F. The **TOOL**: The “worldview tool.”
 - 1. Understand and Live a Christian or a Biblical worldview.
 - 2. The Christian worldview graphic.
- G. **FOUR B's** in our culture that often lead us away from loving God and living a Christian worldview.
- H. How can we learn to LOVE God more and LIVE for God better?

I. BEAUTY

- A. What do you think is “beautiful”?
- B. ALL kinds of things that are beautiful.
- C. What “beautiful” things are YOU attracted to “without even thinking” (Rom. 12:1)?
- D. Other things that are beautiful, including our vast universe.
- E. Connect true beauty with God (Psalm 19).

II. BRAWN

- A. Brawn: Powerful and influential.
- B. Who do you think has “brawn”?
- C. One of my “heroes”: Coach George Whitfield.

- D. Who are your “HEROES”?
- E. Christian “HEROES” and CHAMPIONS?
- F. Mark 12:30 “Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and STRENGTH.”

III. BRAIN

- A. People who might influence you today or in your tomorrows.
 - 1. An example for me: Professor Paul Schilpp.
 - 2. Many others will use their brains to destroy your Christian faith.
 - a) Atheists
 - b) Agnostics
 - c) Pantheists & New Age thinkers
- B. Critically important to develop a Christian mind.
 - 1. Rom. 12:2 “... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (NASV)
 - 2. Mark 12:30 “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, MIND, and strength.”
- C. Some will try to convince you that your Christian Faith is CRAZY! (Acts 26).
- D. How do you invest your brain power?
- E. How much do you invest in growing your Christian mind?
- F. 2 Cor. 10:5 “... take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”
- G. Loving God and living a Christian worldview will require that you bring your BRAIN before God.

IV. BUSINESS

- A. Possible professions (“best” and “worst” according to our culture).
- B. Are you allowing your culture to determine what’s best and worst?
- C. God’s call:
 - 1. Romans 12:2 “Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.” [The Message]
 - 2. Colossians 3:23 “And don’t just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master—for God” [The Message]
 - 3. Jesus’ example (Luke 2:49).
 - 4. Romans 12:1 “Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering.”
- D. Loving God and living a Christian worldview will require that you bring your concept of BUSINESS before God.

ONGOING CHALLENGE:

- A. Put these FOUR B’s B4 God.
- B. Romans 12:1 “... place it before God as an offering.”