

Lucia Serrano

Nyack Heritage

Steve Nehlsen

March 1, 2023

Final Response Paper

Nyack Heritage has opened my eyes to a multitude of amazing aspects of my faith that I was previously unaware of. Through this course, I have gained a wealth of knowledge that has helped me tremendously on my journey with the Lord. The course has provided me with guidance and strength to become a better Christian and a better person in all my future relationships. I never expected this class to simultaneously push me to become a better version of myself and educate me on the history of my school. By understanding A.B Simpson's purpose, mindset, and approach to life, I have learned the importance of understanding God's calling and taking action, even if everyone's walk with God is unique.

A.B Simpson was a person who impacted the lives of countless individuals more than he could have ever imagined. He demonstrated what it means to live by the word of God and by faith, and he spread the love of God through his own personal vision. His unwavering commitment to the Lord, despite the many obstacles and setbacks he faced from a young age, is incredibly inspiring. Throughout it all, he never turned his back on the Lord and always found the positive amidst negative circumstances. One key takeaway from learning about A.B Simpson that I will always hold with me is his prioritization of Christ above all else, and his embodiment of what it means to truly love the Lord. Whenever I face difficult situations and am tempted to give up, I will recall what Simpson taught us and find strength in my faith, knowing that I am not alone. Seeing the immense trust that Simpson had in the Lord inspires me to redouble my commitment to overcome both

good and bad times.

It is difficult to pinpoint just one thing that stood out to me throughout this class, as each chapter presented something unique that I will always cherish in my heart. However, the underlying purpose was clear: to draw me closer to God. This newfound understanding will guide me towards a stronger relationship with Him in the future. Previously, I struggled with comprehending the depth of God's love for me. I would praise and pray to Him during tough times, but when things were going well, I would forget to do so. This class has taught me the importance of commitment in maintaining a healthy relationship with God, as well as with others in my life.

Three chapters in particular - Christ Our Saviour, Christ Our Sanctifier, and Kept - deeply influenced my perception of God. Christ Our Saviour highlighted the incredible power of God to provide for us and the crucial role that salvation plays in our lives. Christ Our Sanctifier emphasized the importance of separating ourselves from sin, showcasing the profound strength of God and His presence in our lives. Finally, the last chapter brought everything together, emphasizing God's promises and greatness, and inspiring me to love Him even more. These particular values stood out to me as they were important principles that I wanted to hold dear in my heart. From my perspective, God already has a predetermined plan for our future, but our actions and decisions determine how we respond to it. Despite any negative experiences that may come our way, as long as we remain faithful to the Lord, we need not fear. True worship of God extends beyond mere church attendance or evangelism; it requires a deeper commitment. Although some aspects of the course caught my attention, I approached it holistically, seeking to draw closer to God and become a better version of myself.

For me, Alliance University was an unexpected but divine intervention in my life's journey. To be

frank, I had never heard of Alliance , Nyack College, before my decision to attend, which was made primarily to pursue my love for sports. The school's strict rules and regulations were not initially appealing to me, especially coming from another country with a different culture. However, upon further reflection, I realized that the school's culture and purpose were unique and compelling, I also could not miss the opportunity to study in the US and deep down I need God had this planned for me. While I have been a Christian since childhood and attended church regularly with my parents, my faith journey experienced various setbacks when my mum got diagnosed with cancer after my grandmother died. It wasn't until I enrolled at Alliance that I began to renew my relationship with God, something I always desired but never knew how to achieve.

Being in the company of individuals who shared a common love for Christ was a novel experience for me, and I was intrigued to learn more. Previously, I would attend chapel with my headphones on, merely to fulfill the attendance requirement. However, now I actively engage with the sermons especially with Pastor Willie, seeking to gain knowledge every day, whether in chapel or the classrooms. It was fascinating to understand why God led me to a school that neither my family nor anyone I knew was familiar with. I am grateful to be here with my whole heart. It took me some time to comprehend and appreciate this fact, but during my time at Nyack College, I discovered many aspects of myself that were previously unknown to me. I realized the extent of the brokenness in my relationship with God and uncovered the kind of person I aspire to be, but had never explored that aspect of myself before. During my time at Alliance University, I feel that I may have discovered my true calling, or at least I hope so. I believe that my calling is to inspire individuals who feel that their journey has come to a halt, to continue persevering. Having been lost and uncertain about how to mend my relationship with God, I managed to find my way back onto the right path. Many individuals in my life have acknowledged me as one of the most genuine and empathetic

people they know. Consequently, several people have reached out to me with issues concerning their relationship with God, and even though I didn't always know how to help them, I understood the pain of their broken relationship. I never imagined that my knowledge could be utilized for a higher purpose in this world. Although I haven't achieved a 100% relationship with God yet, and I'm still figuring out my path with Him, I am further along than I ever thought I could be. I believe that God is summoning me to be the person who reassures others that their journey is not over and to keep persevering. My goal is to broaden my knowledge beyond what I learn in school and impart this knowledge to people I come across.

Nyack Heritage has been an incredible gift to me. Typically, I don't enjoy being in classes, but this one made it easier to understand so much about God and what I need to do as an individual. It has given me the strength to persevere and build stronger relationships in my life. I learned that I need to prioritize things better to maintain a healthier lifestyle. This class revealed my calling, and now it's my turn to be an influencer. Like Simpson, I need to maintain my trust in the Lord and persist through challenges. I'm committed to always doing my best. Additionally, this class taught me to value the blessings in my life and avoid taking anything for granted.