

Shemier Lewis  
Professor Pablo Garcia  
PMN201  
4/23/2023

### Nyack Heritage Course Summary

The information I received from this course is very important and encouraging to me. I honestly did not think I would get much from learning about the heritage of Nyack University, but I was so wrong. I was happy to learn about how it all got started and the life of the man who started it all A.B. Simpson. Simpson's story truly encouraged my life in so many ways, here's a few things that stood out to me about him. In the late 1800's a New York journalist asked Simpson If he knew when Christ was coming back to earth? Simpson's reply was "yes" I found his response to the question amazing. Usually when you're asked a question like that the answer is no but that is not quite correct because based on the scriptural answer A.B. Simpson gave, we know when, but we don't know the date. Simpson's answer was Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." That answer in my opinion needs no other explanation, however it's one that got me thinking. I realize that I am apart of something larger than myself as a follower of Christ; I am part of a large network preparing the world for Christ's return. Simpson used Matthew 24:14 as his motivation for getting the gospel to the world, doing all he can working hard for the kingdom of God. This encouraged me to do the same, not slacking in the work I have been called to do, seek direction then get up and work.

Simpson's life as teacher, missionary, evangelist, pastor, was not an easy one. He had mental breakdowns, physical illness, and a family to take care of but none of that stopped him from fulfilling the call on his life. All he did lead him to start a training facility to train others in

evangelism and missionary work to send them out in the world. This facility grew into a large University today in which I am currently part of. My desire is to learn, work, and share, help others grow not keep the information to myself because the more that learn the more people we have out there working to build the kingdom of God using their gifts and talents.

The other part of the course that encouraged me is a book we read by A.B. Simpson titled “The Fourfold Gospel” modernized by Steve Grusendorf. I learned a lot from the book, it was a great read from beginning to end. It’s great tool to use when teaching new converts about Christ and what it means to live as a follower of Christ. The first chapter “Christ our Savior” you will learn about salvation, what it brings to you, and the importance of sharing the message of salvation which is very important. We’re encouraged to share the good news and not keep to ourselves, and this book will teach you how to share. Simpson says that in salvation “there must be a turning to Jesus as well as a turning from sin.”

Chapter 2 “Christ our Sanctifier” which teaches us that sanctification is not an outward work of good behavior but “true sanctification is the beautiful work of Christ in our lives.” One of the many things he says in this chapter that stood out to me is “We cannot be conformed to the image of God without love, for God is love. This is perhaps, the strongest feature in a truly sanctified life.” That quote resonates with me because I find it to be absolutely true I found myself having a very hard time living this Christian life and receiving healing from past hurts. The truth is though I received salvation I was stuck there couldn’t grow in Christ, I develop knowledge but was still broken, angry, and hurting because I lacked love. I couldn’t receive God’s love, which kept Christ from healing my brokenness. I began to learn about love true love from God, spend time in meditative prayer and worship and one day in my room this unbelievable worm presence filled my body from the inside out and I cried. Not tears of sadness

but of joy and relief it's like I felt Christ's arms of love wrapped all around me and from then my healing journey began.

“Christ Our Healer” chapter 3, now as I'm on my healing journey this chapter really encouraged me. This chapter helped me to understand the healing journey God has me on it's a process of submission and building a close relationship with Christ. “Divine healing is the result of the continual abiding in Jesus, for we can only abide as we submit to God's will.” In the beginning of my journey God assured me through scripture that I'm safe in His hands, that He's the one taking me through it all, and my part is to submit. Jeremiah 18:6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the Lord. “Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.” I took that scripture and made it personal to me by replacing house of Israel with my name and answering yes to God because I know that my life is safe in His hand. I wasn't afraid to start my healing journey this time in God because I am in His hands and God knows exactly how to handle me. He knows how much pressure to apply and where.

Lastly, I would share Chapter 6 “Kept” or I would say Christ our Keeper. Simpson says “Some of you may be in strange places, lonely places, hard places, and dangerous places, but if God is your covenant God, you can rest without fear. Jesus has promised to keep you until He returns. He won't let you down.” This reminds me that God is with me no matter the situation I may find myself in. Jeremiah 29:11 is my go-to verse whenever I'm facing pain or struggle in my life, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” This verse keeps me encouraged and my faith strong in God. Another quote from Simpson in this chapter that resonates with me is taken from Psalms 17:8, “Jesus promises to keep us as the apple of His eye. As a young girl around 12 or 13 I received a prophetic word that I am the apple of God's eye, some time ago in my adult life I

found out that it's a scripture. During this journey of healing, I was reminded of that word, I am the apple of God's eye, He sees me, He is watching over me, He loves me, and God values me. I know that Christ is truly a keeper and the lover of my soul.

As I think about A.B. Simpson's life and teaching I am reminded of my life and calling, I decided to get up and keep pressing forward in Christ. In the beginning of the Spring semester, I lost my job at the time I was just ending a week of fasting, I tried not to worry and stay strong, but one thing just kept happening after the next. I became ill and couldn't celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday the way I wanted to. Well, I began to have flash backs and the fear triggered my depression and this time around I felt alone like God wasn't there, but I knew that He was though I couldn't feel Him. I sunk deeper and deeper and the thought of quitting everything came to mind. I fell greatly behind in my classes but through the grace of God I was able to get up and press on, I found favor in my professors and was able to make up the missing work. Through the reading of the fourfold gospel book, I became more encouraged and felt hopeful again. My assignments in my classes reminded me of who I am and what God called me to do, I also began singing again.

All my life from about 11 or 12 years old I have received prophetic words from multiple individuals about being called by God as an evangelist, and singer but of course I didn't see that as being possible with me. I was too broken and messed up or so I thought, well time went by and here I am today accepting the calling on my life. I thought, how do I go about being an evangelist, where do I start, not realizing that hello you already started. I've been working in the church singing in revivals indoors and outdoors, preaching, teaching, and helping children of all ages, planning and running vacation Bible schools in the summer in New York and in the Caribbean. I am the youth pastor in my church and women's leader and what I learned in school

I then bring it to the women and teach them. Now I have a new tool to use the fourfold gospel book which will help me teach the new converts in my church and others that will come my way. I love working with children because I believe in having a strong foundation in your life to build on, what's better than building your life on Christ. I started the Summer with Jesus Vacation Bible School to give children a godly foundation to build on, something I thank God that I had as a child. This summer I was invited to Antigua by the Wesleyan Holiness Church to organize and direct the VBS there. Where others and I will teach the youth about using their gifts for the Lord.

I also have a desire to help those in need around me in my community and other parts in the world but for now God has me here. In the past along with others I have organized outreach missions in our community taking food, little hygiene supplies, and the word of God in song and preached, bringing the love of God into the community. God has been dealing with me in starting to do the things I once did again, but I haven't received the when however, I am preparing and waiting. During the shutdown from covid I started a YouTube channel where I sang and shared an encouraging word to everyone, but I stopped posting got distracted but I knew God wanted me to get back into it however I kept ignoring the nudge. I didn't think anyone would watch my videos but one day an individual at school told me how she enjoyed one of the videos she watched and of course I was shocked that she even went on my channel. At the same time, I received a text from my grandmother saying that she enjoyed my singing videos and so it really hit me. God wanted me to get back to focusing on the things He placed in my heart to do.

In my conclusion this class opened my eyes once again to the work God has called me to do and my answer is yes Lord. God asked Isaiah, "Who shall I send" and Isaiah responded send me. We are praying for revival and the harvest is ripe as the Bible says but the laborers are few, but this laborer is saying Lord continue to prepare me like Isaiah I say I WILL GO.

