

Thinking like a Christian

During these past 12 weeks, I have studied the “Thinking Like a Christian” bible study and I have learned a lot about what it truly means to be a Christian, how to truly follow God and turn people to God for eternal life. Being a Christian is more than just going to church, going to FCA, and reading your Bible. It means applying and trusting God's truths in all aspects of our lives.

In the first week of study, I learned about “Thinking like a Christian” and it's about what you are putting into your mind because what you put in your mind are those actions and thoughts that will come out in your daily actions. My high school football coach taught me about “which dog am I feeding?”. He would say “Are you feeding the positive dog or are you feeding the negative dog?” and I related that to this part of the book. I ask myself am I feeding the “world dog” or am I feeding the “Christian dog” because whichever dog gets fed is the dog that's gonna hunt! So if I'm reading, watching and listening to all of these worldly things, then that's what my actions will show. But if I'm feeding my mind positive things and putting daily time into God and listening to positive motivating music, then those actions will show throughout my days and throughout my weeks. So during this week's study, it was a real motivation to see and practice what I am putting in my mind and watch those same things become my actions and thoughts.

God is real! Through this book, I've learned God is everywhere and everywhere all the time. For a lost person saying that there's no God, tell them “The heavens declare the glory of God”. You can tell them also about God's revelation in Psalms 19:1-4. In this verse, it talks about the general revelation of God. God allows people everywhere, at any time and in every place to understand that He is real. The first verse states “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”. This just shows that if you look around and you see the complexity of this world and universe, there is only one answer and it's that for such a designed universe there was a designer and that is our God and he also created the beginning and the end and heaven and hell. Our God makes no mistakes, he has a plan for each and every one of us here on earth and it is our job to let the world know about the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that he is real and that he is ready for you to call on his name at anytime, anyplace, no matter who you are he is ready for you to call on his name.

Later in the book, we learn about Kathy's world. Kathy is struggling with depression and thinks she was not meant to be and is questioning whether she is worth anything to anybody. Kathy is what the world calls a crowd follower. If there were kids at her school that smoked, she smoked. If a boy wanted to do something sexual with Kathy, she would do it. If drugs were being used by her friends, she would try them. So Kathy is lost and doesn't have any goals to be a better person because she doesn't know better. If I were to help Kathy on the right path and give her confidence, I would start with Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; He created them male and female” and Psalm 139: 13-14, “For it was you who created inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. Verse 14 says, “I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous and I know this very well.” Sharing these two verses with Kathy should give her a sense of purpose and reassure her that God created her before the world even knew

her. There are many people that need to hear this message about purpose. There is a problem in the world today about people trying to fit in and be cool. That is something that I have also struggled with. Oftentimes, I find that I'm trying to be cool with the world and not with the Word. God asks us to do two things while on this Earth. That is to truly love God and love people and that's it. If you do those two things, you'll get to spend eternity with God forever. I know it's only two things, but for a lot of people that is very hard to sacrifice. They just want to constantly impress others around them and take the praise for what they did and what they accomplished rather than just giving it to the One that designed them purposely and put them on this Earth. Once you give God the praise, more than likely, better things will start happening in your life and God will bless you. There's a saying: Good things happen to good people and if you truly do good acts to others that need it from the bottom of your heart God will bless you for those actions.

In this 12 week bible study "Thinking like a Christian", I have learned to monitor what goes into my mind and what I am feeding my mind. This is definitely one of the most important things I've learned from this book because it affects my actions and I have been able to see it in the past 12 weeks. I learned that I need to apply God's truths in all aspects of my life. I am glad that I took the time to complete this Bible study and feel blessed to be receiving the Francis A. Schaeffer Scholarship. This journey has changed me for the better and I am looking forward to growing in my faith at Louisiana College.