

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 1:18-20**. Mt. Vernon, IL Youth Rally.
- B. This is heavy stuff for this early in the morning! But let's get started!
- C. John 20:30-31 says... 1John 5:13 says... This means there is enough evidence to not only create saving faith (or belief) but also that one may know (be convinced, assured of) he has eternal life.
- D. How do you come to believe in God in the first place? If your friends or parents told you how did they come to know God?

I. YOU DID NOT COME TO KNOW GOD THROUGH REASON.

- A. Webster defines reason as the "inferences or conclusions drawn from the facts known or assumed".
- B. Reason is therefore a means to an end, not a beginning.
- C. The "great" psychologist, Sigmund Frued said that we reasoned our way to God, by taking all the good qualities found in earthly Fathers making a composite called our Heavenly Father, and put that God in the Bible.
- D. But man would not make a God that is described in the Bible:
 - 1. That would put a man in paradise and then forever banish him.
 - 2. That would allow one man to kill another.
 - 3. That would destroy the entire earth except for 8 souls.
 - 4. That would bring 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine to show His favoritism of one brother over 11 others so that in generations to come His people would be in slavery.
 - 5. Allow His chosen people to wander in the wilderness so long that by unbelief only two would enter the promised land.
- E. Reason can get us in trouble. Example/joke: frog, cutting legs off, goes deaf.

II. YOU DID NOT COME TO KNOW GOD THROUGH IMAGINATION.

- A. Alexander Campbell asked in a debate, the atheist, Robert Owen, "How did mankind come up with the idea of God in the first place?" Owen answer was, "By imagination."
- B. Campbell would never ask a question in a debate that he did not already know the answer to. Imagination was an incorrect answer.
- C. We cannot imagine anything that is new. Example: a monster made of things that already exist.
- D. Carl Marx thought that religion was the opiate of society, because mankind had imagined God to help in trouble and want.
- E. To explain that which you have imagined, you must use terms of things that already exist.
- F. Since God cannot be found through wisdom, reason, or imagination, this only leaves one possible way (it is correct); revelation.

III. (NOT BY REASON OR IMAGINATION) BUT BY REVELATION.

- A. I know what I believe because of 4 things that have been revealed to me (Rom. 1:16-20).
- B. One, the wrath of God.
World history tells us that almost every major world power was defeated because of sin. Assyria, Medo-Persia, Israel, and Judah all fell due to sin. You would think people would learn (Prov. 14:34).
- C. Two, the evidence within.
We are unlike and above all other created things in that we have capability of thinking and saying "I ought". If the atheist is right then "I ought" is no different than "I itch". The conscience bears witness (Rom. 2:15).
- D. Three, the creation (God's general revelation).

Nature screams of God. It makes known the law, order, precision, eternal power and the invisible attributes of God. When I look at the universe about me I cannot help but know there is a God.

E. Four, the Bible (God's specific revelation).

A tree never told me about my sin, Jesus Christ to come, the church, the worship, or the plan of salvation, etc. God's great revealing Himself to man through the word (Rom. 1:16-17).

CONCLUSION.

A. You do not have to "park your brains" to be an Xian.

B. Christianity is not a myth with no substance, history or reality.

C. Do your homework and you can know what you believe.