



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“GOD’S NOT DEAD”

Bishop Rice Brooks – Mar. 23, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Have you ever doubted the existence of God?
- Have you ever been in a situation that you had to defend your faith? How did it go?
- Have you heard/read in the news about last week’s announcement of the new evidence found that confirms the big bang theory? (Evidence that confirms that the universe had a beginning) What have you heard/read and how was it presented?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Romans 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The purpose of this sermon is to equip the believers to present arguments for their faith and lead people to Christ. The Bible, when proving the existence of God, appeals to creation itself as a proof for the existence of God. When somebody doesn’t believe in God, our answer cannot be to quote Scripture, because that person will not acknowledge the authority of Scripture. There are three main arguments for the existence of God.

1. **The Cosmological Argument:** The universe exists; therefore there must be a God that created the universe. The logic behind this argument is:
 - Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
 - The universe began to exist.
 - Therefore the universe has a cause.The only viable explanation for the existence of the universe is that it was created by a space-less, timeless, uncaused, eternal, and conscious God.
2. **The Argument of Design:** The universe shows an intelligent design; therefore, there must be an intelligent Designer behind it all.

The principle of irreducible complexity means that for something to exist, none of the elements can be missing. The universe required all of the elements to be present at the same time for it to exist and function. Evolution says that life evolved from simple matter over time. Only an intelligent God could have caused all of the necessary elements to come together at the same time.

- 3. The Moral Argument:** Humans have moral values; therefore, somebody must have placed those moral values within us. If there is no God, there can be no objective moral values. This would imply that humans are merely animals that only do what they are programmed to do. However, even atheists hold humans to higher standards than this. Our human laws condemn the strong abusing the weak. The same way physics and chemistry can explain the material composition of a book but not its content; atheists can explain the composition of human DNA, but not a human's moral element seen in their conscience. Only God could have written the moral laws within our consciences.

The ultimate end of being equipped with these arguments is to share the Truth in order to lead people to Christ, and to remove any argument that raises itself up against the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Which one of the above arguments do you find the most useful when sharing your faith?
- Do you feel you can share one of these arguments with someone who doesn't believe in God? Can you do so this week? If not, what would it take for you to feel ready?
- In light of the fact that God's not dead, what changes do you need to make in your personal life?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would give you the opportunity, wisdom, and boldness to share your faith with someone.
- That God would use the *God's Not Dead* movie to bring people to faith in Him.
- That God would raise up Christians to be the voice that is heard on university and college campuses.