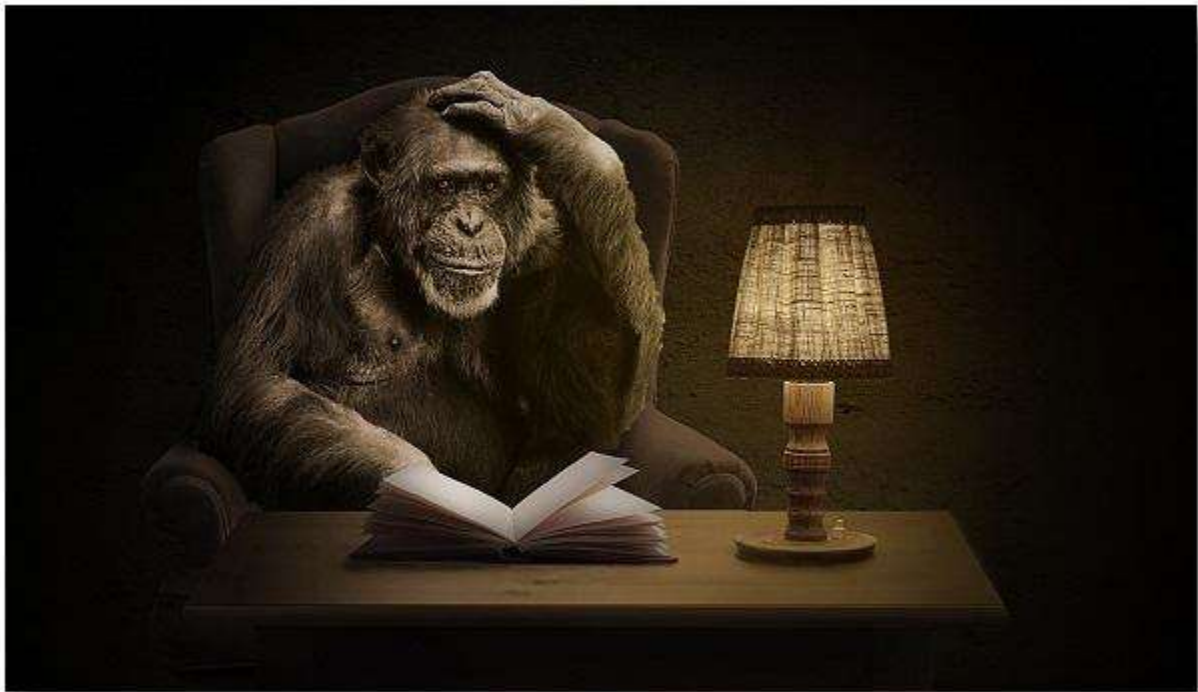




May 10, 2020



WHAT THE MONKEYS CAN'T DO

1st in a Series on the Character of God

Passage: Psalm 14:1-3 - Topic: The Importance of Knowing God

On Sunday, Rick began a new sermon series on the Character of God called, "Indescribable." For the first of the series, he preached on the importance of knowing God.

He began by pointing out that the Bible calls atheists fools. He drove home the point that for our own good, we will want to know if God exists, with the illustration of the Emergency Room saying, "Play stupid games, win stupid prizes."

So his first point was that it is possible to be convinced that God does exist. He cited four arguments that demonstrate that we can be confident in God's existence:

The pervasiveness of the idea of God argues for it - societies all over the world and all through time have come up with the idea of a divine being. Studies have shown that children who have never heard of God come up with the idea themselves.

The existence of morality argues for it - societies all over the world also come up with universally accepted values of right and wrong. This is best demonstrated when a person is wronged. Again, children were cited to demonstrate it as they watch cartoons and know instantly who is good and who is bad.

The evidence of creation argues for it - it takes more faith to believe that before anything existed, there was nothing, and "nothing" blew up and out of it the universe was formed – than to believe that a Divine Designer ordered it. The Goldilocks Paradox is explained on Newscientist.com, that "many of the essential parameters of nature seem fixed at values that are 'just right' for life to emerge. A whisker either way and we would not be here. It

is as if the universe was made for us." Rick then cited some astoundingly convincing math in the design of the universe that points to the near impossibility of things occurring in nature by chance - the ratio of protons to electrons, the strength of gravity, the expansion rate of the universe, and the amount of information stored in a DNA molecule.

The evidence of Jesus Christ proves His existence - overwhelming evidence of His life, death and resurrection. God came down in the form of Jesus Christ and people saw, heard and touched him, and passed the news on down through the ages.

Then Rick taught that the *what* we believe about God is crucial. First, he explained that it is the top priority. If God exists, if He created us, He is in charge and we will do well to regard Him as in charge. Then he said that knowing God impacts who we are. He cited Bible scholars who say that the characteristics of the God that humans believe in are usually what we progress towards becoming: we are what we believe in. Rick then showed that knowing God will affect how you see life. If God is real, then the most important thing you can do is to live for Him. Anything else would be foolish. It impacts how we handle hardship. It gives our suffering meaning, and it gives us hope that these afflictions produce for us an eternal weight of glory.

In application to our lives, Rick makes three recommendations:

1. Be assured that God is there - review often the evidence that convinced you in the past.
2. Know God as He is - The more truth you can seek out about God, the greater your depth of knowledge of Him, the better off you will be. It's the only way to have true peace, joy, security and full life.
3. And seek God with all your heart! Keep the main thing the main thing and pursue Him and serve Him with everything you've got. *Let Him be the center of everything we are and do and be our reason for living!*