



"THE MAGICIAN'S TWIN"

9.28/2014

Religions (and atheisms) are, at the very least,

Three Ultimate Questions we need help to solve:

The challenge of _____

The puzzle of _____

The problem of "_____" and "_____"

Romans 1:18-19

_____ Theory

Romans 1:21-23

The Law of _____

Romans 1:24-25

The _____ / _____ problem

This is a _____... God is _____

To watch a debate between Dr. Richard Dawkins and Dr. John Lennox, look up "The God Delusion" Debate on fixed-point.org or youtube.com

Suggestion for further reading:

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller



STUDY QUESTIONS

Use these questions in your community group or personal study time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

Albert Einstein said, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." Paul of Tarsus wrote, "God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

Yet here we are in a world that is increasingly questioning the reality of those two statements. Many in the science community claim that science is in fact well into the process of disproving Christianity or any other religion.

Is this true? Is this all rhetoric? Obviously science has been a wonderful gift to humanity. But are Christian's backs really against the wall, and about to lose it all?

Every person must decide the answer to those questions, but we must decide on the basis of the real evidence. The way we treat and respond to our fellow human beings depends on it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been in a situation (class, conversation, TV program, reading) where you felt that your faith was being challenged by science or another area of study?
 - a. What was your response? Was your faith shaken? Did it bring up doubts?
 - b. List some questions you would like to address before being in that situation again.
2. **Read Romans 1:20-23** to get the facts on what early Christians believed about things like our origins, ethics, and morals. What does this verse imply about...
 - a. Where the world came from?
 - b. The origins and ethics of right and wrong?
 - c. Where to turn for answers to life's ultimate questions?
3. **Read Psalm 139 in one shot.** David, like any of us, was confronted with ultimate questions of existence, God, and his relation to God. What does this Psalm show David believed about God?
 - a. Using David's example, how can we respond when our questions can't be answered by mere observation?
4. In the message, Dwain made the statement: "This a moment, but God is forever." What do you think he meant? How does this affect the way you relate to challenges and questions?

MOVING FORWARD

Time and again, throughout history, we have been told that Christianity is on its last leg. Every time Christianity has been threatened, it has risen up stronger and higher. One could argue that we are in such a moment now. The *New Atheism* is waning. Science is opening up to new possibilities for answers to ultimate questions.

If Paul is right, then there really isn't a deep split between faith and science. As we said last week, science, philosophy, and history can't ultimately *prove* anything on by themselves, all we can do is see the evidence. We need to see the direction the evidence is headed and take the final step through belief.

Devotional reading suggestion: Read Psalm 139 multiple times throughout the week and let David's words about God wash over you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

ROMANS 1:18-25