

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, text **FHNew** to **53123** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church, or stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium.**

You can also fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the back of the chair in front of you. If you have a prayer request, this is a good place to write it out and place in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, text **FHBaptism** to **53123** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- [Moms groups](#) (links)
- [Bible Recap](#) – read through the Bible
- [Men's Boot Camp](#) – May 2-5 – Sign up now!

INTRODUCTION

Foothills is not your average church. It is not for the “cultural” Christian. It is different because our purpose is to coach people up in their faith. Regardless if you are a non-believer, a new believer, a growing believer, a mature believer, our goal is to coach you up to take the next step on your faith. This is called **discipleship.**

If you want to learn, grow, get stronger, discover healing and wholeness, courage and confidence to grow or clarify what you believe and why you believe it, then Foothills is the place for you.

This series is one of the most challenging series we have ever done. We are doing this series because I want you to develop **mental strength**. I want you to be strong, mature, solid.

Here's the challenge: Most of us have been trained to think in a way that makes us **weak**. It undermines our confidence. Therefore, we must be trained to think in a new way.

1 Corinthians 14:20 *"Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature."*

PROOFS: In logic, a **proof** is like a scientific fact

- In addition to the archeological evidence, the extent literature evidence, the historical evidence, this is **rational** evidence -- philosophical evidence that proves there is a God

Why is it so important to be able to prove there is a God?

- Your position on whether there is a God or not is the most important belief in your life -- it directs the nature of all your other beliefs
- **Jesus said:** *"The way to life is narrow and few are those who find it."* (Matt 7:14)

What you believe is one of the most important things about you.

- **Socrates** said: "The unexamined life is not worth living." So we are examining what we believe and why we believe it.
- **Jesus** said in **Luke 14:** *"In order to follow Me, you must first count the cost."*

Clarifying what you believe requires you to answer the most important question first

- **Aristotle** phrased the question this way: "Why is there something instead of nothing?" to the most important question you will ever ask: "Is there a God?"
- **Atheists also spend their time focused on the answer to this question**
- **By evaluating the rational proofs for the existence of God, we discover that what we believe is not irrational but rational**
- **You can be a skeptic of the proofs and still see the rationality of them**
- **Rational thinking builds a foundation of powerful convictions. If you want to be a real man or women of strength, then strengthen your convictions**
- **This is the point of this series:** That you grow stronger – mentally, morally, rationally, with the ability to think for yourself, which results in a stronger emotional life

PROOF #1: THE MORAL PROOF

- Proves that God exists because all human beings are moral beings

PROOF #2: COSMOLOGICAL PROOF

- Everything that begins to exist has a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore, the universe has a cause

PROOF #3: THE “FINE TUNING” OF THE UNIVERSE

The “fine tuning” of the universe to support life is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design

1. **Physical necessity:** The belief that because it happened, it had to happen
2. **Chance:** The option that given enough time and opportunities, it could happen
3. **Design:** It was designed this way by a superior “first cause”

The fine tuning of the universe to support life cannot be due to physical necessity or chance.

1. Physical necessity is pure irrationality
2. Chance is not possible because there isn't enough time, and the probabilities point to the opposite of fine tuning
3. **Therefore, it must be due to DESIGN**

THE POWER OF THIS PROOF**Dr Rosalind Wright Picard**

- Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at MIT
- Founder and director of the Affective Computing Research Group
- Co-founder of Affectiva and Empatica
- Elected to the National Academy of Inventors (2021)
- Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Awarded the International Lombardy Prize for Computer Science Research (2022)

Testimony**Recap of Dr Picard's testimony**

- She is a scientist who is not a materialist. Scientific materialists state that they only believe what can be proven by science. Unfortunately, science cannot prove beauty, historical

events, applicability of mathematics (it presupposes mathematics), logic, or even science itself

- She went from atheist to follower of Jesus, believing in the historical accuracy of His life, death, and resurrection

POWER OF THIS PROOF

First, a very important distinction:

- This proof is about the design of the universe that is capable of supporting life
- The issue of how life developed is a separate question

It shows the beauty and wonder of God

- **Psalms 19:1-2** *“The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.”*

It’s proof that there is a designer - God

- **Psalms 147:4-5** *“He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”*
- **Psalms 139:13-15** *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

IMPACT ON YOUR OWN LIFE

The problem with atheism, scientific materialism, secularism is it robs you of life

- You don’t have to believe in God to experience true love in your life; BUT, if there is no God, then there is no true love in life
 - Sacrificial love doesn’t exist. When Jesus said *“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”* (John 15:13), according to an atheist it’s irrational and stupid
- You don’t have to believe in God to find a purpose for your life, BUT, if there is no God, then there is no purpose to be found in life
 - The belief that you have value, that you matter, what you believe, your convictions, the way you live can make the world a better place -- doesn’t exist
 - According to Sam Harris and Bruce Hood in his book, The Self Illusion, these things are not true -- they are just illusions that your mind has made up
- You don’t need to believe in God to experience hope in your life, BUT, if there is no God, there is no hope to be found in life

- If there is no God, there is no hope. You were hurting, broken, suffering, need a healing, the only thing that can sustain you is **hope**
- In a material only world, **hope** is not possible
- You don't need to believe in God to experience the fulfillment of **creating** something, BUT, if there is no God, there is no meaning in creation
 - Dr. Rosilind Picard states that a person must believe there is a truth to discover before one can go and discover it
 - The very essence of the creative mind, the innovative mind, the discovery mind, the explorer mind, the builder mind **originates from the FAITH mind**
- You don't need to believe in God to develop good **friendships**, BUT, if there is no God, there is no point to friendship
 - If there is no God, then friendships exist only for the safety found in community
 - It is an "I'll use them and they'll use me" kind of sentiment, and it is driven by selfishness, not friendship

When you fight for the faith, when you contend for the faith, when you defend the faith, you are fighting for life! You are fighting for the future prosperity for society

- Love
- Hope
- Meaning and purpose
- Value
- Free will

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **When you realize astrophysicists say that the universe is so fine-tuned that it had to be designed, how does this impact your beliefs?**
2. **If God designed the universe, what does that mean for his design for you?**
3. **Where does your meaning and purpose really come from? How does God designing the universe impact that belief?**