

# valueFUL

letter to the Colossians

[Wonderful](#)

Colossians 1:15-23

Wayne Braudrick

February 22, 2026

**Life Change: We keep the main thing the main thing**

Wundran: *proto-German* true but astonishing, unimaginably great; entered Old Saxon and Old English as wundar, Middle English as wonder

**Jesus is *wundran!***

15-20

He is God visible

He is pre-eminent

He is creator

He is the main thing

I for one have a problem with “wonder,” not the concept (which you explain with the dictionary definition), but the experience itself. As you say, this whole passage points to the main thing, Jesus, who he is and what he is doing in real time all the time. “By him all things hold together” (v. 17) or, as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, “sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus is intimately involved in every aspect of this present reality in which we live – an amazing thing! This makes me want to please him in every way (Colossians 1:9-12) and experience fellowship with him. (Interesting...as I write this, I realize that I am experiencing wonder. Wow!) – a friend who requested anonymity

**Jesus wants us to keep the main thing the main thing**

21-23

We were alienated

Believers are reconciled by Jesus

We will be presented before God

We determine the tone of that meeting

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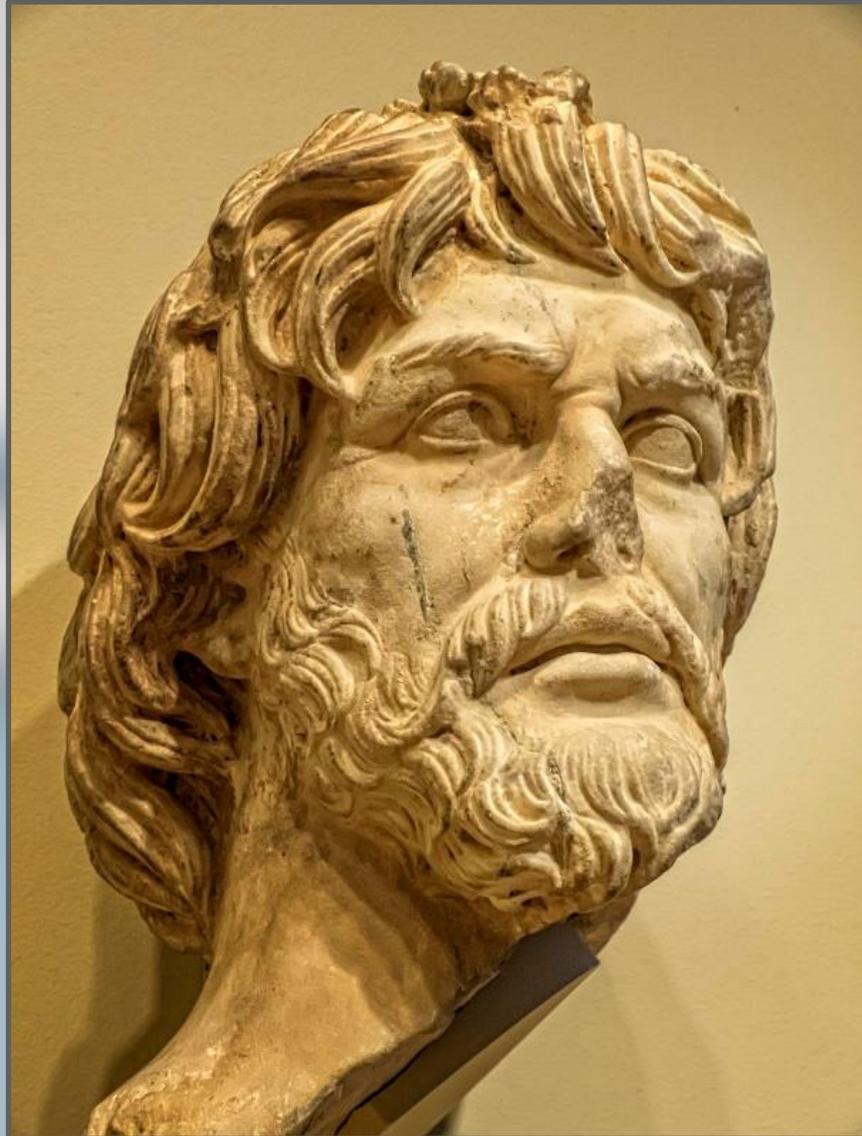
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Faithful Truthful Powerful Wonderful Masterful Graceful Mindful Purposeful Delightful Joyful

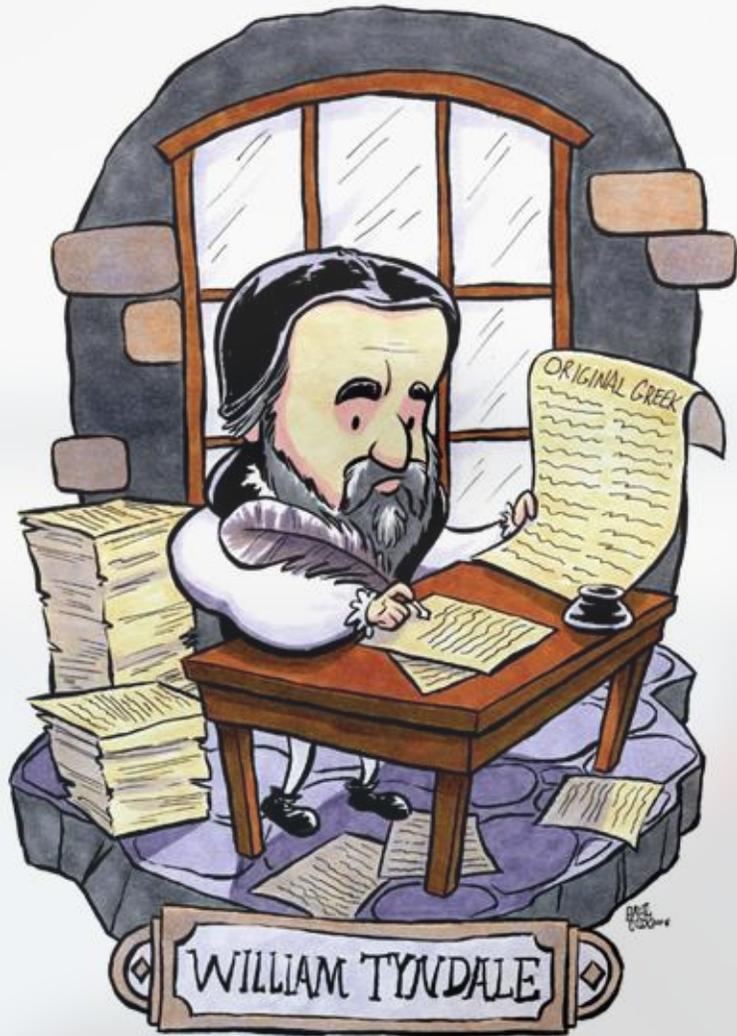
# valueFUL

## letter to the Colossians

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



**Wundran: *proto-German*  
true but astonishing,  
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Old Saxon and Old English as  
wundar, Middle English as  
wonder**



**Wundran: *proto-German* true but astonishing, unimaginably great; entered Old Saxon and Old English as wundar, Middle English, wonder**

**24 Tell of His\* glory among the nations,  
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.**

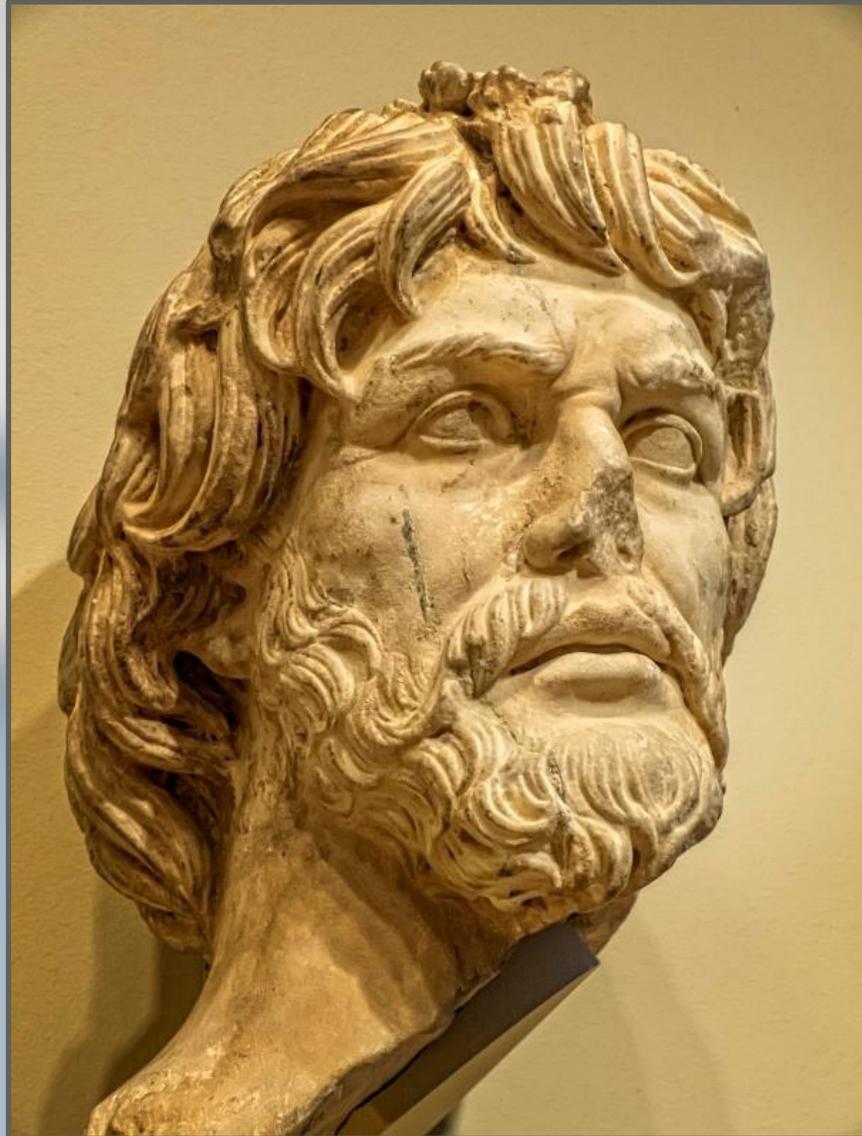
**1 Chronicles 16 NASB**

**\* Context: God's**



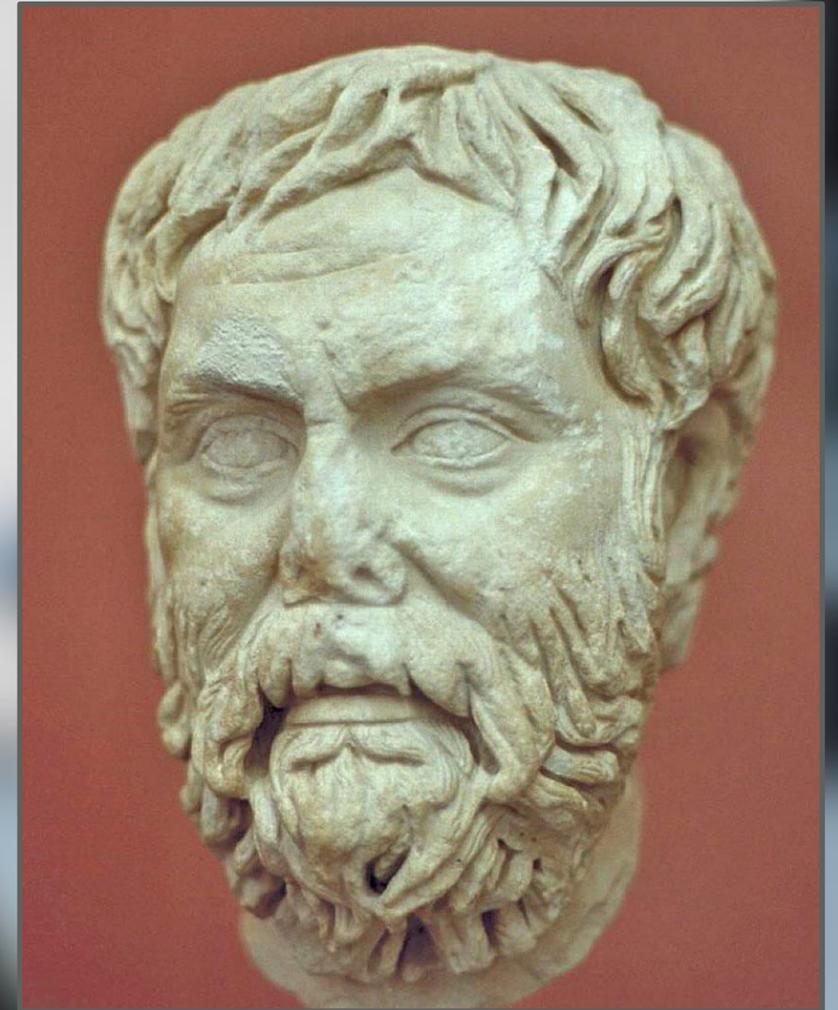
**In the middle of competing, I'll be watching these big, beautiful snowflakes fall. I think about how, at the dawn of time, the King of Kings designed this weird-shaped crystal of oxygen and hydrogen with people like me in mind. – David Wise, *freestyle halfpipe skier with 2 Olympic golds, multiple X-Game golds***





**Wundran: *proto-German*  
true but astonishing,  
unimaginably great; entered  
Old Saxon and Old English as  
wundar, Middle English as  
wonder**

**Skepticism had begun under the Greeks, faded into near-obscurity, and then enjoyed a strong revival in late Republican & early Imperial Rome.**

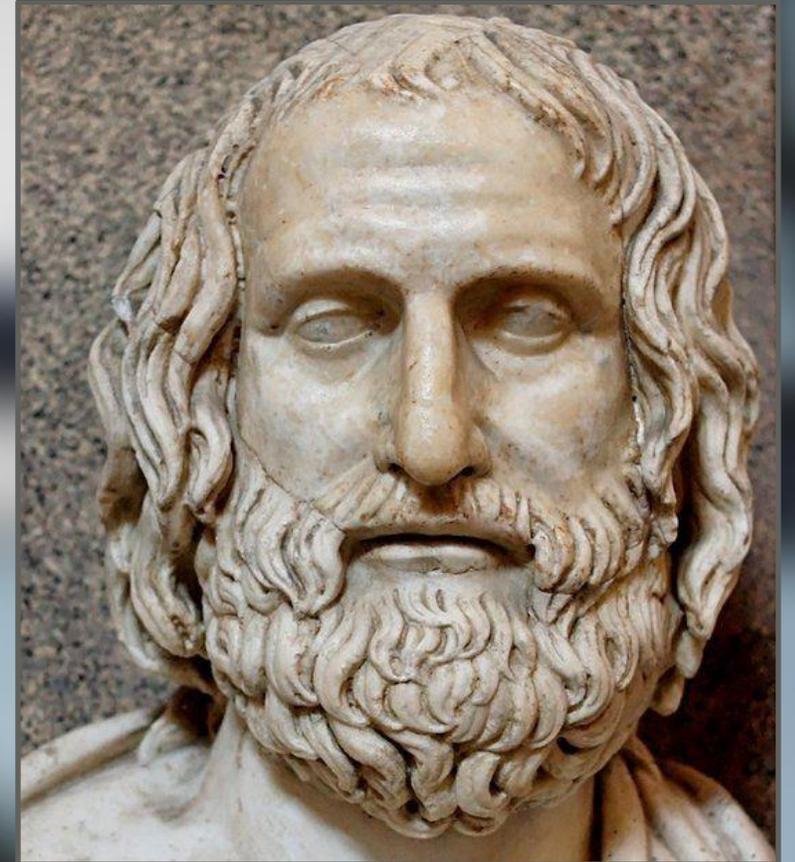


**Pyrrho of Elis ca. 360-270 B.C.  
first Skeptic philosopher**

**Skepticism: nothing is knowable. Wonder is a false concept because nothing is true. Things that seem great are merely a personal response from the ignorance that is humanity's lot.**

**Wundran: *proto-German* true but astonishing, unimaginably great; entered Old Saxon and Old English as wundar, Middle English as wonder**

**Of all things the measure is Man, of the things that are, that they are, and of the things that are not, that they are not...There is no way of knowing about gods or [anything] else. [Usually rendered simply as "Man is the Measure of All Things".] – Protagoras, quoted in Sextus Empiricus, *Adversus Mathematicos***





**Why bring all that up? It is evidently idiotic – if one can't know anything then one can't know that one can't know anything!**



**When Paul writes to the Colossians, he addresses a church that had a strange & difficult relationship with truth & the wonder that follows it.**

**“There is no such thing as absolute truth  
based on an absolutely good God.”**

## THE FOUR HORSEMEN

*the*  
SCIENTIST

SCHOLAR

SKEPTIC

REBEL



RICHARD DAWKINS



SAM HARRIS



DANIEL C. DENNET



CHRISTOPHER  
HITCHENS



[WWW.RICHARDDAWKINS.NET](http://WWW.RICHARDDAWKINS.NET)

**New Atheism was a kind of emotionally motivated rage that [as] enlightened denizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it should be up to us to decide everything about our lives...A lot of New Atheism began from this place of indignation and then engaged in mental gymnastics to rationalize that feeling...Now, the [New Atheist] phenomenon has evaporated...even [Dr. Richard] Dawkins, maybe the most openly hostile [atheist], recently said that he is a “cultural Christian.” – Nick Pompella, “Why New Atheism Crumbled”**

**15 He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation.**

**16 For everything was created by him,  
in heaven and on earth,  
the visible and the invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions  
or rulers or authorities—  
all things have been created through him and for him.**

**17 He is before all things,  
and by him all things hold together.**

**18 He is also the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
so that he might come to have  
first place in everything.**

**19 For God was pleased to have  
all his fullness dwell in him,**

**20 and through him to reconcile  
everything to himself,  
whether things on earth or things in heaven,  
by making peace  
through his blood, shed on the cross.**

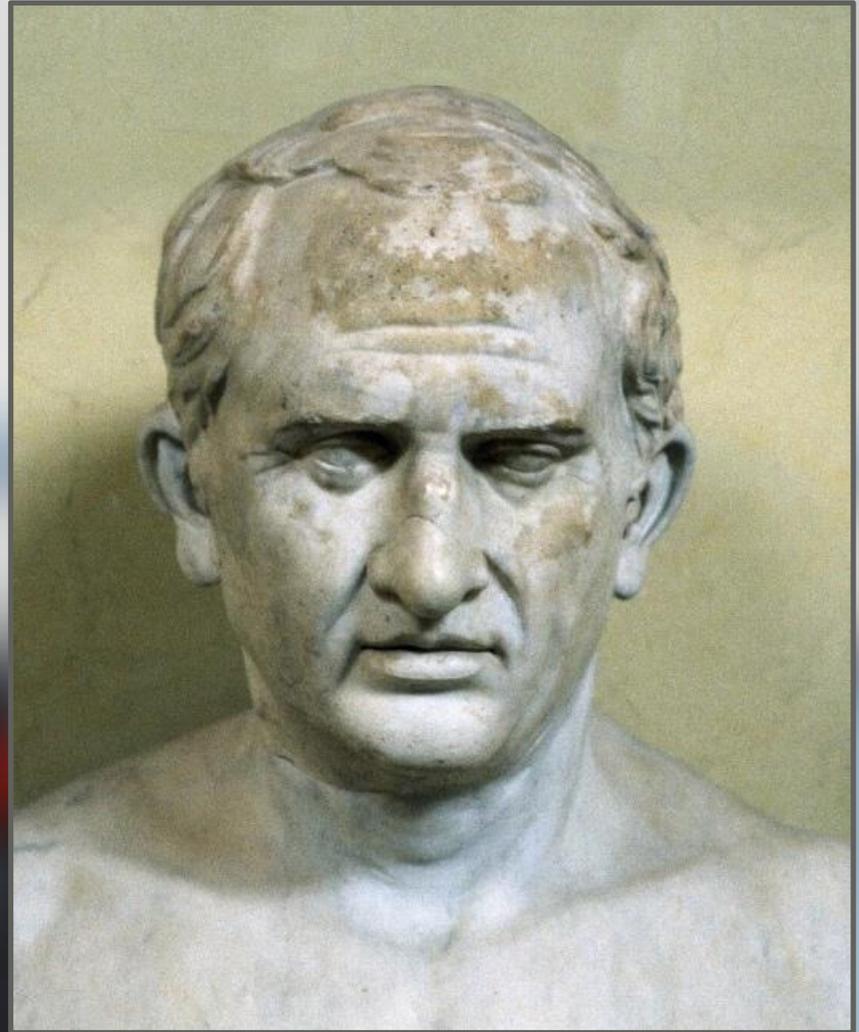
**Colossians 1 CSB**

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**Colossians 1 CSB**

**Reasonable truth can and  
should be a source of wonder.  
– Marcus Tullius Cicero**



## Cicero regarding skepticism & wonder

- [It is] most perverse to accept falsehoods in place of truths. (*Academica* II.66)
- Rashness and error in assent are vicious. (*De Divinatione* I.4)
- The search for and inquiry into the truth [*verismilitundo* = absolute truth], above all, are proper to humanity. (*De Officiis* I.13)

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**Colossians 1 CSB**

## Chalcedonian Creed

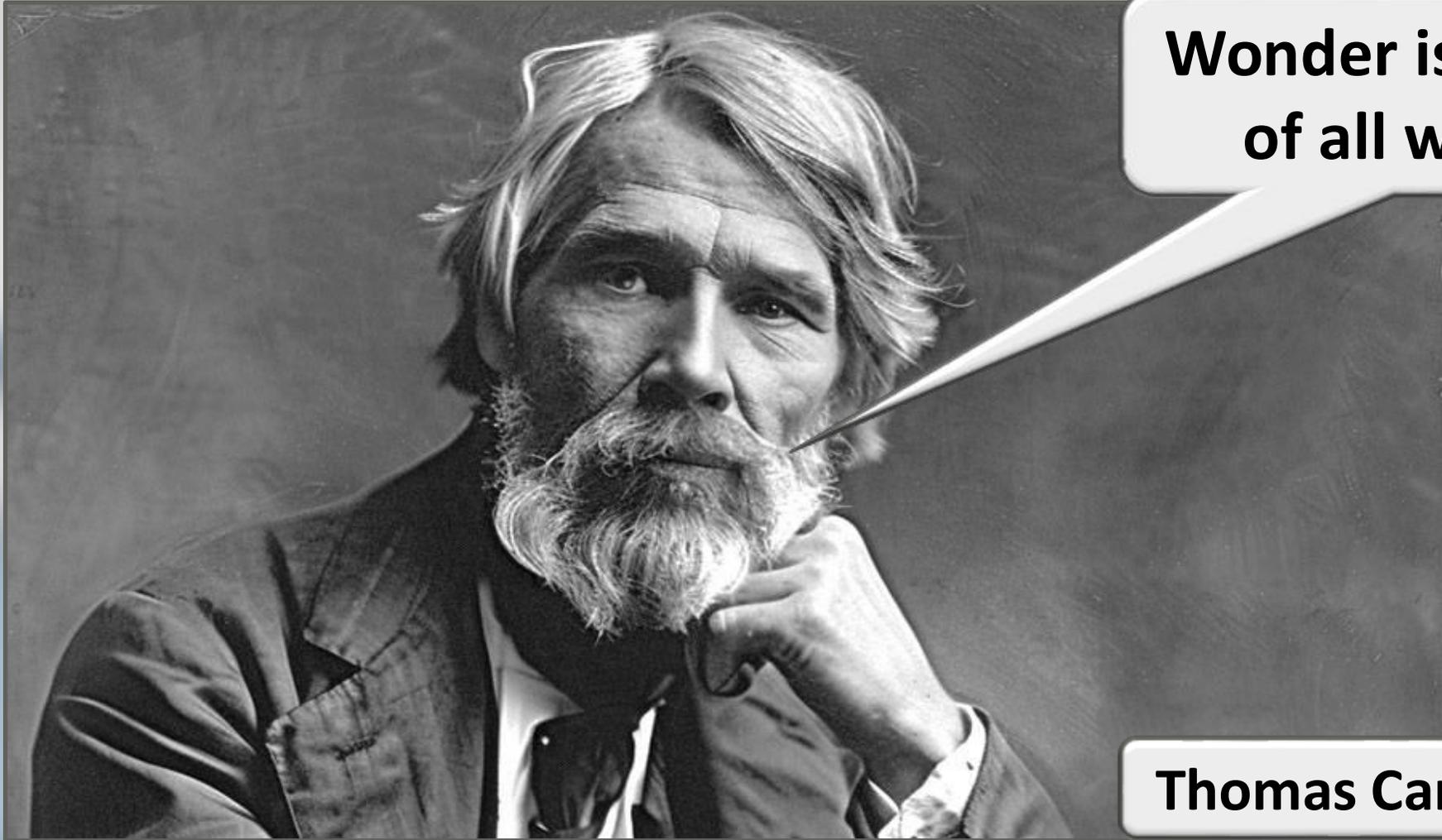
Lord Jesus Christ [is] at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man... recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God, the Word.

**15 He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation.**

**Greek: πρωτότοκος prototokos = preeminence**

**18 He is also the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
so that he might come to have  
first place in everything.**

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**Wonder is the basis  
of all worship.**

**Thomas Carlyle**

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**When I consider my inevitable death [barring Jesus' return first],  
I do so:**

- a) With great fear, knowing the pain and embarrassment involved in most deaths.**
- b) With great sorrow, knowing the pain of those left behind.**
- c) With great confidence, knowing the firstborn from the dead.**

**When I am choosing entertainment or leisure activities,  
I do so:**

- a) Based primarily on what is considered popular.**
- b) According to what makes me feel good.**
- c) To enjoy Jesus and His creative life.**

**16 For everything was created by him,  
in heaven and on earth,  
the visible and the invisible,  
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or rulers or authorities—  
all things have been created through him and for him.**

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**At some point in college, I realized that one could construct an entirely rational view of the universe that still had God at the center; [in fact] it is the only way to answer the question “Why is there something rather than nothing?” that doesn’t resort to pseudoscientific babble like the multiverse theory.**



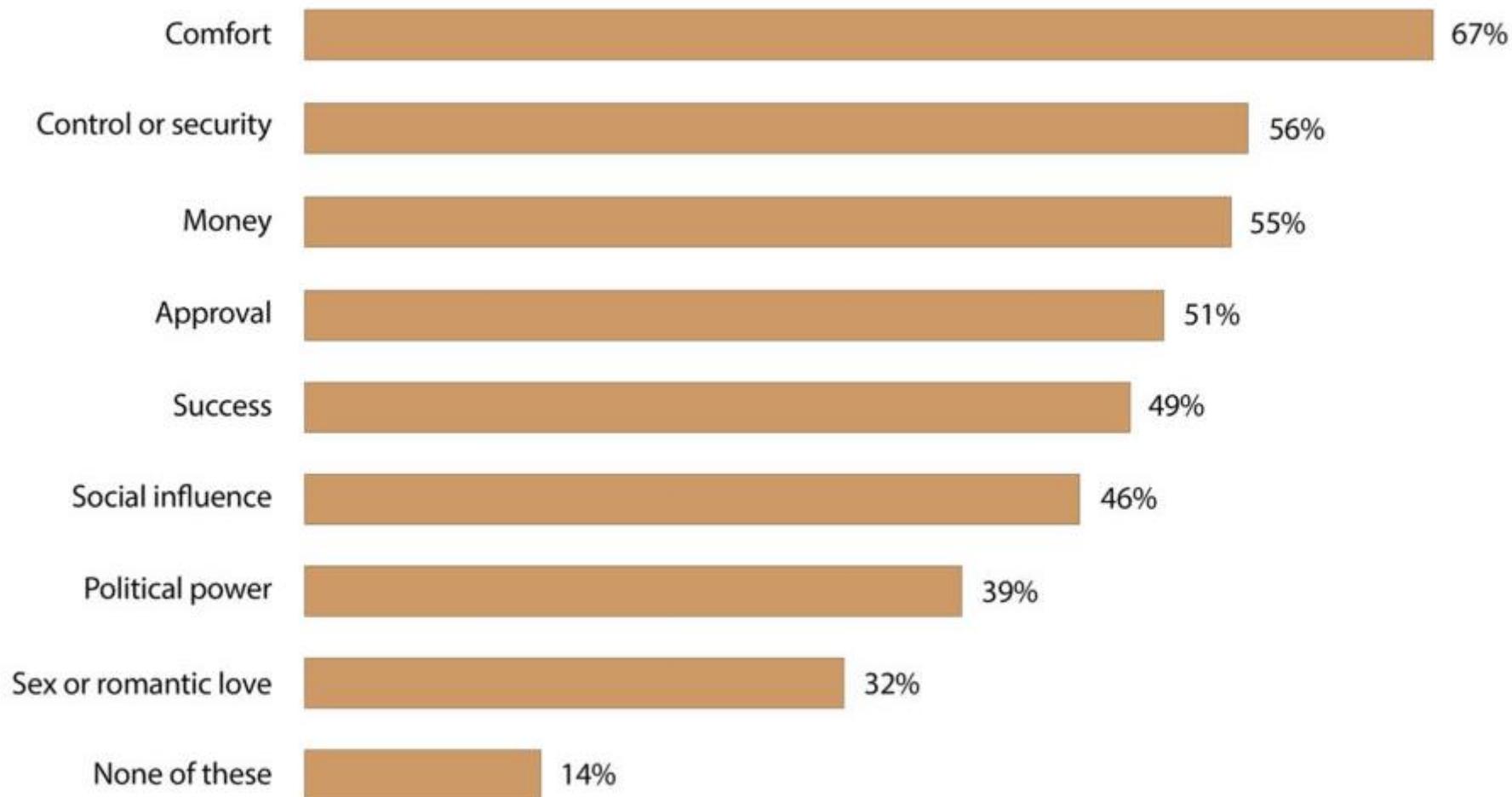
**– Nick Pompella,  
“Why New Atheism Crumbled”**

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**Most modern ills come from ignorance of this truth. From views of life that exalt human importance to abortion (which eliminates human importance), from idolizing created things to ignoring creation, the root flaw is willful ignorance of Jesus as creator.**

# What modern-day idols have significant influence in U.S. churches?

*Among U.S. Protestant pastors*



*Notes: Respondents could select all that apply. 2% say not sure.*

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courtesy google



LBC

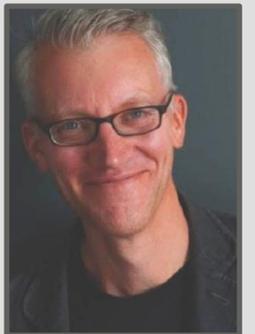
 @TIPPINGPOINTOAN

RICHARD DAWKINS: I'M A CULTURAL CHRISTIAN



**[S]ecularism & Dawkins' own brand of evangelical atheism are both expressions of a specifically Christian culture—as Dawkins himself, sitting on the branch he's been sawing through and gazing nervously at the ground far below, seems to have begun to realise.**

**– Tom Holland**



**18 He is also the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
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so that he might come to have  
first place in everything.**

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**There would be none of the fruits of Christianity without its roots in [Jesus]. Another Oxford professor, C.S. Lewis, pointed this out in the 1940s in *The Screwtape Letters*. Lewis wrote, “Men or nations who think they can revive the Faith in order to make a good society might just as well think they can use the stairs of Heaven as a short cut to the nearest chemist’s shop.” Lewis knew, better than Dawkins, that God will not be used as a means to an end. He is the end. – John Stonestreet & Shane Morris, “Richard Dawkins, a ‘Cultural Christian’”**



**<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him — <sup>23</sup> if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.**

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**21 Once you were alienated  
and hostile in your minds  
as expressed in your evil  
actions.**

**Colossians 1 CSB**



courtesy Janna Braudrick

### Olfactory Epithelium

A catacomb at the back of the nasal passage houses sensory receptors.

<i>Humans</i>	<i>Dogs</i>
<b>1 in<sup>2</sup></b> surface area	<b>30 in<sup>2</sup></b> surface area
<b>~6</b> million receptors	<b>~250</b> million receptors

cross section



### Olfactory Bulb

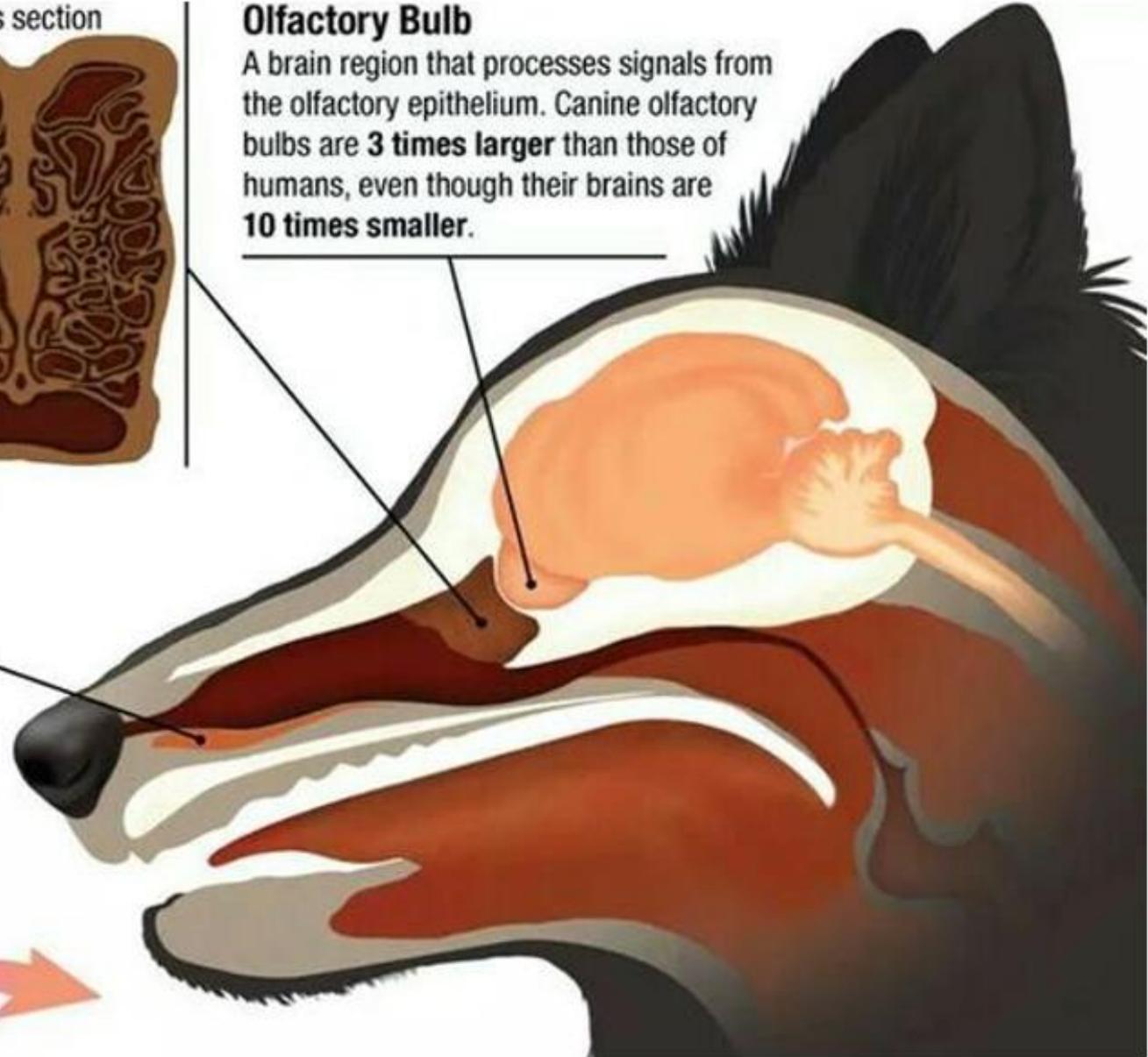
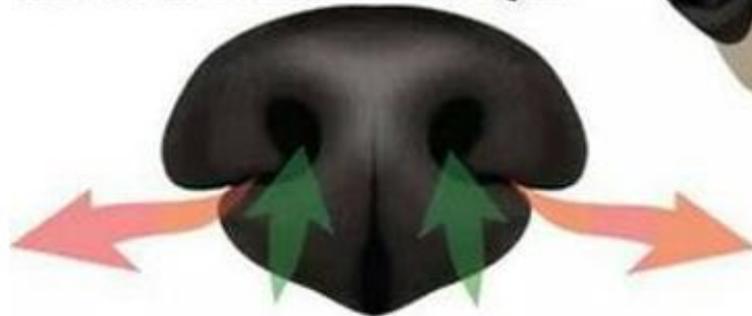
A brain region that processes signals from the olfactory epithelium. Canine olfactory bulbs are **3 times larger** than those of humans, even though their brains are **10 times smaller**.

### Vomerinal Organ

A sensory organ that detects pheromones picked up by a dog's wet nose.

### Nostrils

Air is exhaled through the side slits, so it doesn't dilute the scent of incoming air.



**21 Once you were alienated  
and hostile in your minds  
as expressed in your evil  
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**<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

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**Colossians 1 CSB**

<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Greek: ἀποκατάλλασσω apokatalasso

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Colossians 1 CSB

**Greek: ἀποκατάλλασσω apokatalasso**

**Apo = a prefix of emphasis + Katallasso = an exchange that brings together separated things (especially enemies)**

**Apokatalasso is employed 3 times in the NT:**

- **Colossians 1:20 – the divine plan to bring the universe (excepting those who reject God) into harmony with God's purpose.**
- **Colossians 1:22 – individual believers are reconciled to God.**
- **Ephesians 2:16 – Jews & Gentiles are brought into one church body by Jesus.**

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**Colossians 1 CSB**

**<sup>22</sup> to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—<sup>23</sup> if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.**

**Colossians 1 CSB**

**Greek: παρίστημι paristemi = old term from classical Greek, where it was used of bringing someone before a judge**

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**Don't misunderstand! Christians will not face the Great White Throne judgment the apostle John describes, where non-Christians will be held accountable. Christians face a different judgment at the bema – the reward-seat of Christ.**

**For further study, see:**

**Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 3-5; 2 Corinthians 5;  
2 Timothy 2 and 4; and 1 Peter 5.**

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courtesy google

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Faithful Truthful Powerful Wonderful Masterful Graceful Mindful Purposeful Delightful Joyful

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