"Believing in God is the Smartest and Best Thing You Can Do"

John 7:37-38 David Owens 11.25.26

A. There is a lot of evidence that God _____ and that believing in God is the best and smartest thing anyone can do.

B. The idea that it is smarter to believe in God than not to believe comes from a famous philosophical and probability argument known as _____ Wager, formulated by the 17th century French mathematician and philosopher _____ _____.

- If you believe in God and God exists: You gain an infinite reward (eternal life/Heaven).
- If you believe in God and God does not exist: You lose very little (just a bit of time or some worldly habits).
- If you don't believe in God and God exists: You lose everything (infinite loss or damnation).
- If you don't believe in God and God does not exist: You gain nothing special (just being right).

C. Passages that convey the _____ and _____ of believing in God:

1. Deuteronomy 17:14-15, 18-20
2. Deuteronomy 32:45-47
3. Joshua 1:6-9
4. Psalm 1:1-6
5. Psalm 112:1-10
6. Isaiah 55:1-11

D. Jesus' promises and invitations to the _____, thirsty and _____:

1. John 7:37-38 – streams of _____ _____ flow from deep withing him.
2. John 6:35 – _____ be hungry or thirsty again.
3. Matthew 11:28-30 – you will receive _____.
4. Augustine: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is _____ until it rests with you."

E. Two promises for those who love and follow Jesus:

1. John 12:26 – the Father will _____ him.
2. John 14:23 – the Father will _____ him and make a _____.

F. The story of M.I.T. professor Dr. Rosalind Picard who went from _____ to _____.

Answer Key: A. exists. B. Pascal's, Blaise, Pascal. C. promises, benefits. D. hungry, weary. D.1. living, water. D.2. never. D.3. rest. D.4. restless. E.1. honor. E.2. love, home. F. atheist, believer.