

Sermon presented by:  
**Pastor David Rawley**

Services at:  
**8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**

Sunday School for ALL ages:  
**9:50 a.m.–10:35 a.m.**

at: **Otterbein Church  
of the United Brethren  
in Christ**

**146 LEITERSBURG ST.  
GREENCASTLE, PA 17225-1324**

# — The GOD QUESTION —

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 2026

## “Other Gods”



Hear, O my people, and I will warn you.  
So, listen to me, O Israel. You shall have  
no foreign god among you. You shall not  
bow down to an alien god. I am the LORD  
your God. The one who brought you up  
out of Egypt. (*Psalms 81*)

**IDOLS...** objects to which people attribute supernatural **consciousness** or **power**.  
These are appeased, pleased, or appealed to.



**1 Cor. 8:4** “An idol is nothing at all in this world.”

**ICONS...** Objects (relics) or people (saints) believed to be a source of miracles/healings.

**Venerated. Pilgrimaged. Prayed unto.**



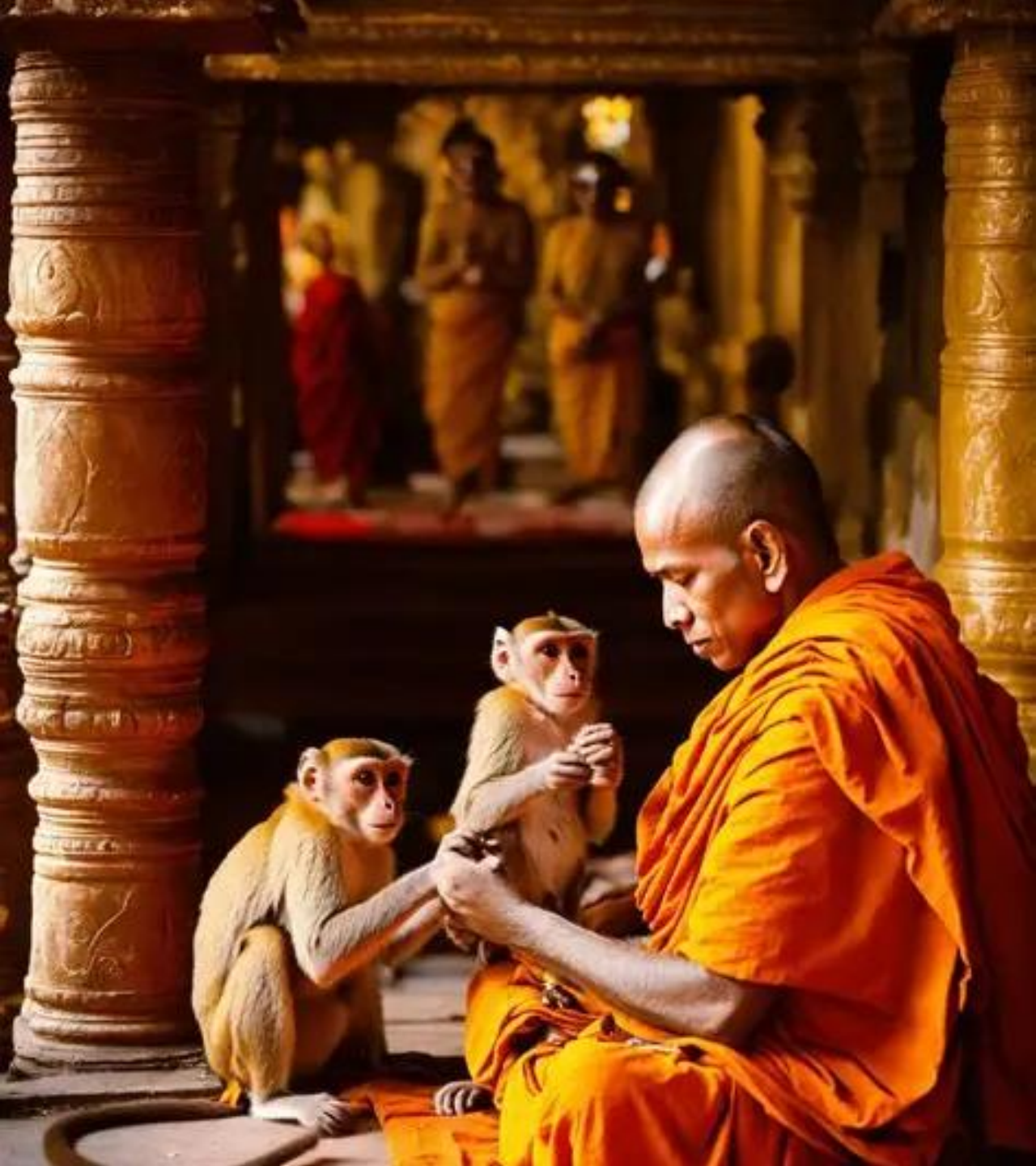
Icons may provide visuals or atmosphere to enhance worship, but they provide no influence with God.

**Luke 11:27** “Blessed is [Mary]!” No,  
rather, (**manoun**) blessed is anyone  
who hears God’s Word and obeys.”

**IDEAS...** (philosophies or moral codes)

- Human beings may **impress** God
- Human beings may **become** God
- Human beings may **displace** God

\* Such ideas are human **inventions**,  
not revealed to us in the Bible.



**Acts 17:27** “God did this so that men would  
SEEK HIM, reach out for him and find him.”

**Deut. 5:7** You shall have no other gods  
before me.

*[literal]* There shall not be to you  
other gods in my face (*pani*)

The potential for “other”

- creating/allowing “other” to **substitute** for the **actual** only living GOD
- This is **possible** because of **ignorance**.

## The Bible

- **objects** – ridicule and scorn (“creature rather than creator”)
- **leverage** – intercession for humans...  
Christ/Holy Spirit (only)
- **human notions** – God gives revelation; unmoved by human “guessing”

Most RELIGIONS are nothing more than one (or more) of these realities dressed up in tradition and culture

- **Idols** – Hinduism, Buddhism, Animism, etc.
- **Icons** – RC and EO, Shintoism, Taoism, etc.
- **Ideas** – Scientology, Mormonism, Buddhism, Humanism, etc.

Muslims claim that worship of CHRIST is an “other” God. True?

- The Bible tells us that Christ was the Living God incarnated as a human person.
- Heaven sent (powerful) and virgin born (perfect) [no fallen human nature]
- Mission = **forgiveness** rather than **fear**; **relationship** rather than **ritual**

Motivated by both selfishness and altruism, people who would not knowingly worship idols **worship** ACTIVITIES, MOVEMENTS, and HUMAN CAUSES. This is also idolatry, an “other” god given **priority** over the living Creator and Judge.