



Hi Saints,

I went over to feed Ron and Molly's dog, Brandy, this morning. I had put her up in a kennel the night before. She stayed there 12 hours without human contact, without any place to go. She just sat there. I know how much Ron and Molly love that dog. They are having a ball in Germany for sure -- but I would guess that every now and then they wish that they could have told their dog what they were doing so she would know that her solitary confinement would only be temporary. They might even have said as much to her before they left. If they did - do you think she understood? Of course not. You could tell a dog all day long about your plans and how they will affect her and she will still just look at you and wag her tail joyfully oblivious of what you are saying. God didn't equip dogs to handle our plans. Their brains don't have the software to help them process what we are saying. They just know we love them and that we are paying attention to them - Of course they can be trained to recognize a few commands.

To be a dog and not "get" so much is also pretty nice. No worries and no dread like we have. They might be getting spade the next day but they still sleep peacefully the night before - because they don't know.

In some ways we are like dogs to God. He hard wired us to know and do so much more than dogs - but he did not give us the mental software to process so much of what he is about or up to. Who of us can understand the Trinity or how Baptism saves or the real presence of the Lord's Supper? None. We just listen and wag our tails in contentment - those things mean to us that God loves us and pays attention to us but we cannot really wrap our minds around how they work.

Our oblivion goes much further. God could tell us that our troubles are really good for us but we cannot fully understand him. How could our illnesses, even terminal illnesses ever give us anything good enough to offset the misery it causes us? We just don't "get" it. How could we? We aren't hard wired to get it.

Here is another one: how does God plan to use the events happening around me to save souls? We often don't "get" that either. Oh, every now and then we see it develop into full bloom in front our eyes but not near as often as miss it.

I bet you know a lot more stumpers.

But there is peace in not being able to "get" it too. We can trust God with all that we do not understand and we don't have to know what is coming next. I don't want to know what tragedies will happen next year in my life or else my "today" would be miserable. I can't handle knowing all that. I wasn't wired to handle it either. Neither were you.

It all reminds me of what God said through the prophet, Isaiah, in Isaiah 55:8.

8) "My Thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways, declares the Lord. 9) As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

It is good to know our place and our limitations. We can let go of things and let God be who he is while we remain contented in who he made us to be.

Brandy doesn't know it but her folks are coming home soon and then her life will get better again. Brandy cannot see it but her folks love her and think about her when she isn't even aware of it. We don't see God - we couldn't handle that either. And we don't catch all his thoughts but all the while he is thinking of us and planning for us. He loves us and thinks about us and plans for us even when we are unaware of it.

Enjoy being the puny, little but deeply loved creature that you are! You were made that way.

In Him,

Pastor P