

Coach House Church BEACONS

INVISIBLE POWER

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Recently I watched a documentary called 'Invisible World' which was presented by Tony Robinson. He showed and explained some phenomena about our world that I hadn't considered before. He made some statements that made me think. Although he wasn't necessarily coming from a Christian point of view, his descriptions about invisible powers were linked to scientific discoveries and observations. Therefore, in my mind, the comments are linked to God the Creator of the universe, the founder of science.

At the beginning of the programme, we see a man dressed in protective clothing, sitting outside a helicopter on a platform, flying over pylons and electric power cables. Through a specialist lens we can see that electricity is leaking from broken parts of the overhead powerlines, hence the need to be in this precarious position. He is close to half a million volts of electricity. We all know that electricity is powerful and, while essential to our everyday life, can be fatal if not treated with respect. Electricity is an invisible power that we know exists because we see the result, the effect of its use – boiling the kettle, switching on the lights. We accept this type of invisible power but we often question or doubt divine power- can God really do that for me? Can God answer my prayer? Or change my situation.

Paul wrote to the Ephesian church and said in Ephesians chapter 1:

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

It is difficult for us to comprehend as it was for the Ephesians, that Jesus, who was raised to life by God's power, is now in a place of authority for the benefit of his church. Later, it says:

¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own^(a) by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

As believers, we have the invisible power of God's Holy Spirit within us which helps us to understand and have faith in God, to connect with God's thoughts and feelings for other people, to strengthen us and comfort us when life is difficult.

The main principle of the programme is that 'What the eye sees is not the whole picture.' How true this is in real life. In the bible, in I Corinthians 13 it talks about us not seeing the whole picture of life:

¹² Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.^(a) All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

One day we will understand all the confusing things of life, will know the answers to why? and how? things happen to us and around us. But for now, we have to put our trust in Almighty God who has our best interests at heart and who is all-seeing and all-knowing. Earlier in this bible passage, it asks what would be the purpose of knowing what lies ahead and it is much better to concentrate on the basic principles of faith in our creator, our hope provided by Jesus and our need to show love to each other.

There is a reason we can only see so much as too much information can be damaging and distract us from the important things God wants us to focus on. The programme reminded me that our eyes were designed to see a limited range of the light spectrum because to see more over a longer time would cause damage to our sight. As we know, when light shines through a prism like water drops then the white light we usually see splits into a spectrum of 7 distinct colours: red orange yellow green blue indigo and violet.

The rainbow of colours is mentioned in the bible in Genesis 9, following the story of Noah and his family who were saved from death along with many animals. God said:

13 I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. 14 When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, 15 and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life.

It is true that whenever we see a rainbow it is a sign of hope, of God's promise to never to destroy his creation again. Yet beyond this is the reality of a sombre situation that in Genesis chapter one, God was very pleased with his creation and later in Genesis chapter 6, he was sorry that he had ever made people at all. The bigger picture is that God put into operation a plan to save his creation, through Jesus, but this wasn't realised without heartache and sacrifice. The picture we see of a beautiful rainbow is only the tiniest fragment of a far greater reality.

The spectrum of light stretches way beyond the 7 colours of the rainbow and includes some we know about because of their everyday use:

infrared – used in remote controls to command appliances such as the TV to change channels.

ultraviolet- emitted by the sun, creating vitamin D, and used to detect forged banknotes.

Microwaves –used for cooking our meals quickly.

X-rays- to see below the surface which requires a very powerful light.

John 1:8 tell us that Jesus is the light of the world that leads to life and in Colossians 1 it tells us that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. The power of God is made visible through Jesus and Jesus is the powerful light that sees into and exposes the darkest places. Nowhere is too dark for Jesus to see into. Anyone can come to him and ask for forgiveness and to receive hope for the future.

This quote from Corrie Ten Boom encourages us to look beyond the visible:

'When we are on the beach we only see a small part of the ocean. However, we know that there is much more beyond the horizon. We only see a small part of God's great

love, a few jewels of His great riches, but we know that there is much more beyond the horizon. The best is yet to come, when we see Jesus face-to-face.'

All of this information just reminds me that we have a God who works beyond our thinking, who put a plan into place to give us hope, who has such knowledge and power at his fingertips, that we have no place to doubt his abilities to determine our future path and steps in this life and beyond. There is much more beyond what we can see but God holds us and strengthens us.



MELANIE JACKSON



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org //

0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn