

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?

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25TH JUNE 2021

I'm pretty good at navigating around the country. For years I had to visit customers up and down the UK.

My knowledge however, was better in some areas than others. For example, I primarily had responsibility for the North of England (That is anywhere North of Watford Gap the traditional North South divide!). I also travelled frequently to Scotland, especially to Aberdeen.

Why am I telling you this? Well, I might have good road sense and a fairly good understanding of where places are and how to get to them, but I would be foolish to think that I knew everywhere and everything if I was called upon to go somewhere. Often it is the precise location we need as well as the general direction.

Back in the day, North was North and South was, well, South. Like I said anything North of Watford Gap was North. However, when you speak to someone from Birmingham, they would be indignant if you called them Northerners! They would fiercely defend their status as being from the Midlands! Just be careful who you call a Northerner or a Southerner .... It's just not that simple.

The advent of postcode specific Satellite Navigation made life so much easier. Just punch in the postcode and let the Sat Nav guide you straight to any given door.

Before Sat Nav it was common to drive to a town (maybe two hours away) and then spend the same amount of time on arrival trying to locate and pinpoint the address. So much for road sense and limited knowledge.

Nowadays, even if I have travelled a route hundreds of times, I still punch in the address to the Sat Nav and follow its instructions. There is good reason for this, as new roads get built, roads become Bus and Taxi only, routing gets changed on a fairly routine basis, but my Sat Nav is linked to the internet and so is updated with all the new changes to the route and also updates me around any accidents or incidents that will affect my journey. I have accurate up to date information to guide me, in timely fashion to my destination.

So, let me get to the point of today's beacon.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 says this:**

***All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.  
God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.***

Ok, so a fairly obvious start. I think we take it for granted that scripture (**i.e., The Bible**), is good for discovering Who God is, what His standards are, what is expected of us and guidance on how we set about discovering all of these things.

What isn't so obvious is the first word of the statement. We can also pass over it because we are eager to read the whole sentence, however, the sentence hangs on this one word... ALL.

All scripture, not just the bits we want to read because they are palatable to us, or they support what we would like to do (or not do!).

I can guarantee that there will be objection to the instruction that ALL scripture is somehow relevant to our world today and in fact, there are plenty of people who want to ignore whole sections of scripture – but the question is: why?

The simple fact of the matter is that ALL scripture IS inspired by God. There is no way of getting around this one.

Yes, man wrote down the words, but the words were INSPIRED by God. They did not originate from the thoughts or cleverness of man.

The truth is also that these scriptures are USEFUL to teach us what is true and give us the ability to discern right from wrong in terms of moral behavior. After all, the laws of the land are foundationally set on the 10 commandments found in the Bible.

Our moral compass is set and dictated to by Scripture and what they reveal about God and His love for us, His creation. Scripture reveals our need of being saved from the consequences of SIN. God has graciously sent Jesus to die as full payment for all man's wrongdoing and misdirection in life. All we need to do is recognise that we are 'off piste' and on the wrong road. God provides all that we need to get back on the right road and head in the right direction. He gives our lives a sense of purpose – we have direction and a destination.

So, why do we kick and scream against scriptures that we want to throw out as irrelevant or 'out of touch'?

The one thing I know, is that the Bible is not out of touch and speaks into our lives and situations today – regardless of how we might want to twist and turn away from it.

Scripture reveals to us that we will want to disregard God's rule over our lives, we will want to 'go it alone' – we will want to justify our own actions, direction and interpretation over Gods.

### ***Jeremiah 17 :9***

***“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.***

***Who really knows how bad it is?***

This in itself is a warning to us – be careful – our hearts want to deceive us; we will want to go our own way which will seem comfortable for us.

In the New Testament we get a similar warning from the Apostle Paul. He writes on this occasion to the Roman believers:

### ***Romans 12: 3***

***Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us***

Why would Paul tell these believers, to not think that they are better than they really are?

Let me go back to my self-assured knowledge of how to get around in the North of England. I might know how to get to Grimsby from home, I might feel confident that if I just pointed my car East, that I would get near enough. But this surely isn't enough?

The roads don't go nicely East for me, they skirt around the contours of the land and around stubborn buildings that we have built in the way. The journey is always a little more complex. The general direction might be good, but I have to evaluate and navigate my way around things to get to my destination.

The same is true of our Christian lives. Oh, I wish it was as easy as just reaching the destination, without having to negotiate the ups and downs of life!

The truth is that we need to be re-programmed and re-directed. The landscape changes around us and we have to be mindful that challenges will arise in front of us. What do we do when this happens?

Well, scripture, as I have already shown is the first port of call. It contains the character of God and His revelation to us of His love for us through Jesus.

We are also given another gift to help us navigate.

Sometimes Sat Nav's just have the information of an old map. They don't update on the fly. Most, however have satellite information and up to date traffic notifications and guess what .... So do we.

**John 16:14-15**

***'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'***

So, there we have it.

We have the Holy Spirit constantly updating us on how we live in the moment.

What we can be sure of however, is that He will only direct us in accordance with the Scriptures, which reveal God's character to us.

God does not change, so the scriptures stand as accurate and able to reveal God to us.

The Holy Spirit within us, helps us to discern, and navigate in a world which may look and feel different to us.

Scripture might be hard work for us to take in in its entirety, but it is ALL there for us to set our direction and destination. Be thankful that the Holy Spirit can negotiate us through the roadworks and diversions along the way



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