

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## W I S D O M

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**1st Corinthians Chapter 1 from verse 18. "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it as the very power of God. As the scriptures say 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent'.**

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the worlds brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching so save those who believe."

Throughout the recent Covid crisis we have had regular briefings from the government. You may have seen some on the early evening news, usually fronted by a senior government minister and supported by scientific or medical experts. I don't watch every one, but if they are on I will see if there is anything interesting happening. When I watch these briefings I don't expect to see someone I know, so it was somewhat of a surprise recently to see that actually I knew the medical expert who was providing evidence. We were at University together and, although we lost touch after leaving, I literally owe him my life. You see this was the guy who first told me about Jesus. More than that he also helped me with my first bible studies and made sure that I had the instruction I needed.

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**So what does this have to do with the passage of scripture I read at the beginning?**

To answer that I need to tell you what I was like when I first went to University. I had been educated by our state system in all manner of scientific topics. I was keen on how chemicals worked, I knew about evolution, archaeology, and how the universe worked. To me the bible was just a book, I presumed written maybe 5 or 6 hundred years ago about someone who never actually existed. You can see from this that I matched the description given in the scripture we read "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction!"

I was, because I didn't believe what is written in the Bible, heading away from God, towards my own ultimate destruction. I thought the message of the cross was foolish. And the reason for this was simple. I had been taught something that was contrary to what the bible teaches and I trusted what I had been taught. The little that I did know about the church was a string of don't do this, don't do that rules. This is, I am sad to say, exactly where almost every person coming out of school today is at. Philosophers, Scholars, and brilliant Debaters with no place in their lives for God.

So what changed for me? What can you do if you are in that position now? In short, how do I know that what it says in the bible is true?

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**For me this was a long journey, and it was only by the grace of God that I persevered.**

I was blessed by the fact that I was able to spend time with experienced Christians every day. We ate together and spent time reading the Bible together. The first thing I noticed was that my new friends were living their life in the way that was described in the Bible. I soon discovered that there are a lot more Bible verse telling us TO do something than there are telling us NOT to do something. I also found that the best way to check what was in the Bible is to read it for yourself.

So what about things like the miracles Jesus did? Were they, as I thought, just some sort of illusion or trick, were they just stories? Well perhaps the best way to understand, is to see a miracle for yourself, after all if they happen today they must have always been possible? One of our group came to me one day with a migraine. He was not in a good state but he knew that, even though I hadn't been a Christian long, I could still pray for him. I did so, and, as I prayed, I felt the presence of God in the room. My friend was healed and I learned something. A while later I was there when another friends brother was healed of arthritis in his hands. The

grip he had when he shook my hand afterwards left me in no doubt as to what had happened.

None of this should have come as a surprise. After all what about the day I got saved? I should mention that whilst I was considering some of the things my friend had told me, God spoke to me directly. I believed, as so many do, that this world was created by "accident". A "big bang" followed by billions of years of accidental chemical reactions all bringing us to where we are now. God just asked me the question "Do you really think all this happened by accident?" Like when God asked Adam in the Garden of Eden "Where are you?". God knew exactly where Adam was but wanted Adam to see the answer for himself. For me I had to say "no" I wasn't entirely sure why, but from somewhere I knew that the world wasn't an accident. If so then it must have been created, as that is the only alternative, so who was responsible for that? Well the bible can answer that question if you read it.

Learning that there are copies of bible texts still in existence dating back to the first century dispels the notion that it is a medieval story and starts to ask the questions about accuracy of the text. You see the Bible makes lots of predictions about things that hadn't happened at the time they were written. Knowing that the Old Testament was written before Jesus was born means that all the things written about Jesus before he was born must be telling us that the book wasn't even written by men. Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy that "All scripture is God inspired" in other words it is all the direct result of God telling someone exactly what to write down. How else could so much of Jesus life have been written down before he was even born?

What about stuff that you can see today? The Bible tells us that Israel would be re-established as a nation, that they would use the shekel as currency, that they would export fruit all over the world. All this was written 2500 years ago and if you lived through most of the intervening period, up to 1947, you would have struggled to see that this could ever be the case, yet now, we can see that this word came true.

It must then follow that the idea that we were, in fact, only created 6500 years ago and not 15 billion years ago must, therefore, also be true. And this brings us to the reason that Jesus had to die on the cross. That "Message of the cross" described as "foolish" in the scripture we read. We have all done something wrong in our lives, something called 'Sin' and it was for that reason that Jesus died. He did this knowingly and willingly because He knew that, with sin, there was no way that any

of us could have any part in the promise of eternal life that God promises for those that believe. We cannot get rid of sin ourselves, only Jesus could do that. For me a Christian brother, plenty of Bible study, and by the grace of God my viewpoint was completely turned around. Not blind faith, but all properly studied and reasoned. I proved the truth of the bible by reading it and applying it. As the scripture said, "God destroyed my wisdom and discarded my intelligence and replaced it with the living word of God".

If you now feel that you need to find out more about what has been said, if you are struggling to reconcile scientific ideas with what the Bible says, or if you have just realised that you need Jesus in your life then please get in touch with us. There are some contact details on our website, and also mentioned at the end of this beacon. Don't delay, do it now before the cares of this world make you change your mind and may God bless you.



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