

# 1 CORINTHIANS

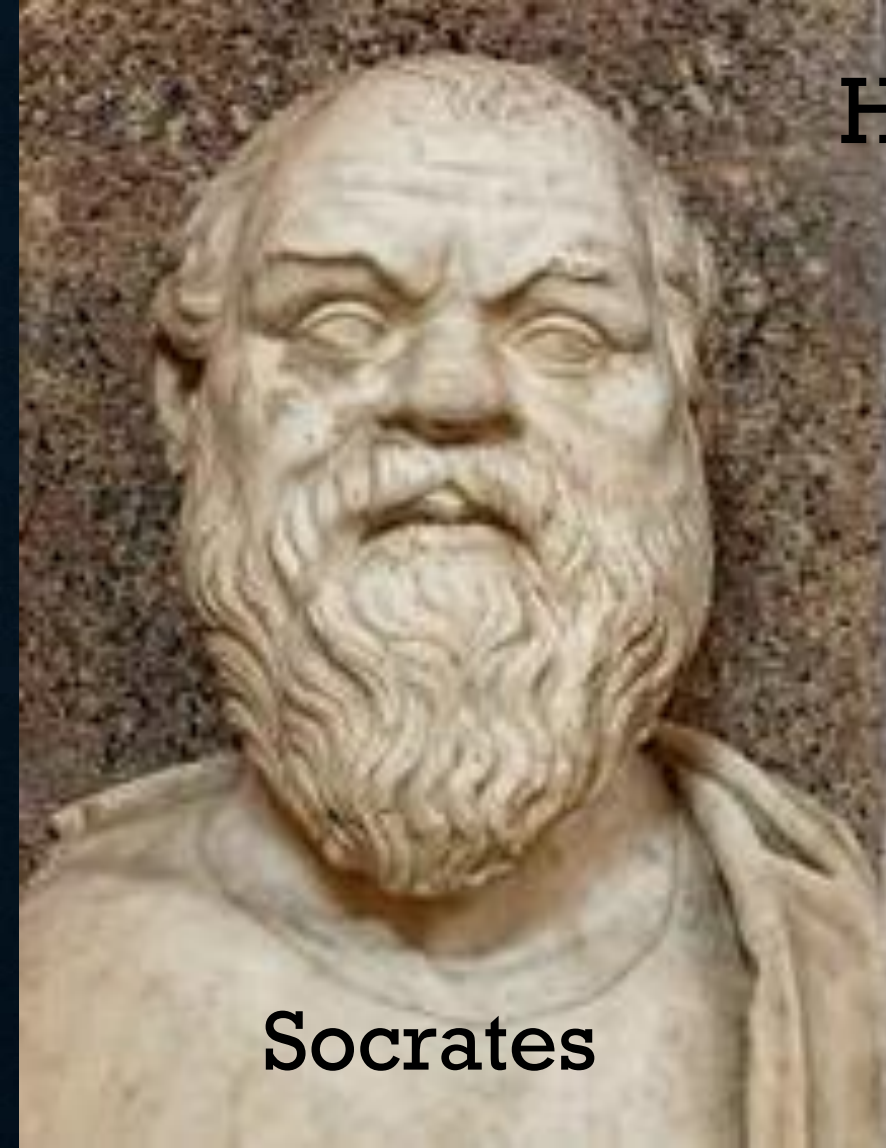
The Gospel  
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

**THE GOSPEL :THE NATURE  
OF TRUE WISDOM**

I Corinthians 1:18-2:16

How do we live well



Socrates



Plato



Aristotle

*the truth about the world and our place within it and to find thereby guidance for how we are to live.*



# DIVISION



1 Corinthians 1:11-12  
(ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."



# WISDOM

Sees the world as a series of value propositions

saw the world in terms of attraction and attention



He measured himself through his financial success



**FINANCIAL**

**PUBLIC ADULATION**

**BEAUTY AND SKILL**

# THE GOSPEL :THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. True Wisdom is in Christ

2. True Wisdom is totally counterintuitive

3. True Wisdom is given by the Spirit



## WHAT WISDOM IS NOT

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



# SALVATION

1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**



# RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SALVATION

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (ESV) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written,

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”



## THE CORINTHIAN'S BOASTS

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

# IT IS THE MESSAGE NOT THE MEDIUM



1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (ESV) And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

# THE GOSPEL :THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. True Wisdom is in Christ
2. True Wisdom is totally counterintuitive
3. True Wisdom is given by the Spirit



# WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE

## 1. NATURE SPIRITUALLY DEAD

1 Corinthians 1:18-19 (ESV) 8 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

We laugh at things we do not understand



# THE CROSS HAS A POLARISING EFFECT



Sign of Judgement –Like Israel in Isaiah 6  
We do not loose heart



## **ROSALIND PICARD**

" I assumed that those who believed in a God had thrown reason to the wind. I could look around and see all kinds of uneducated people who were believers, and I thought the two went hand in hand

**Whacky,**





## WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE

### 2. THEIR WORLD VIEW

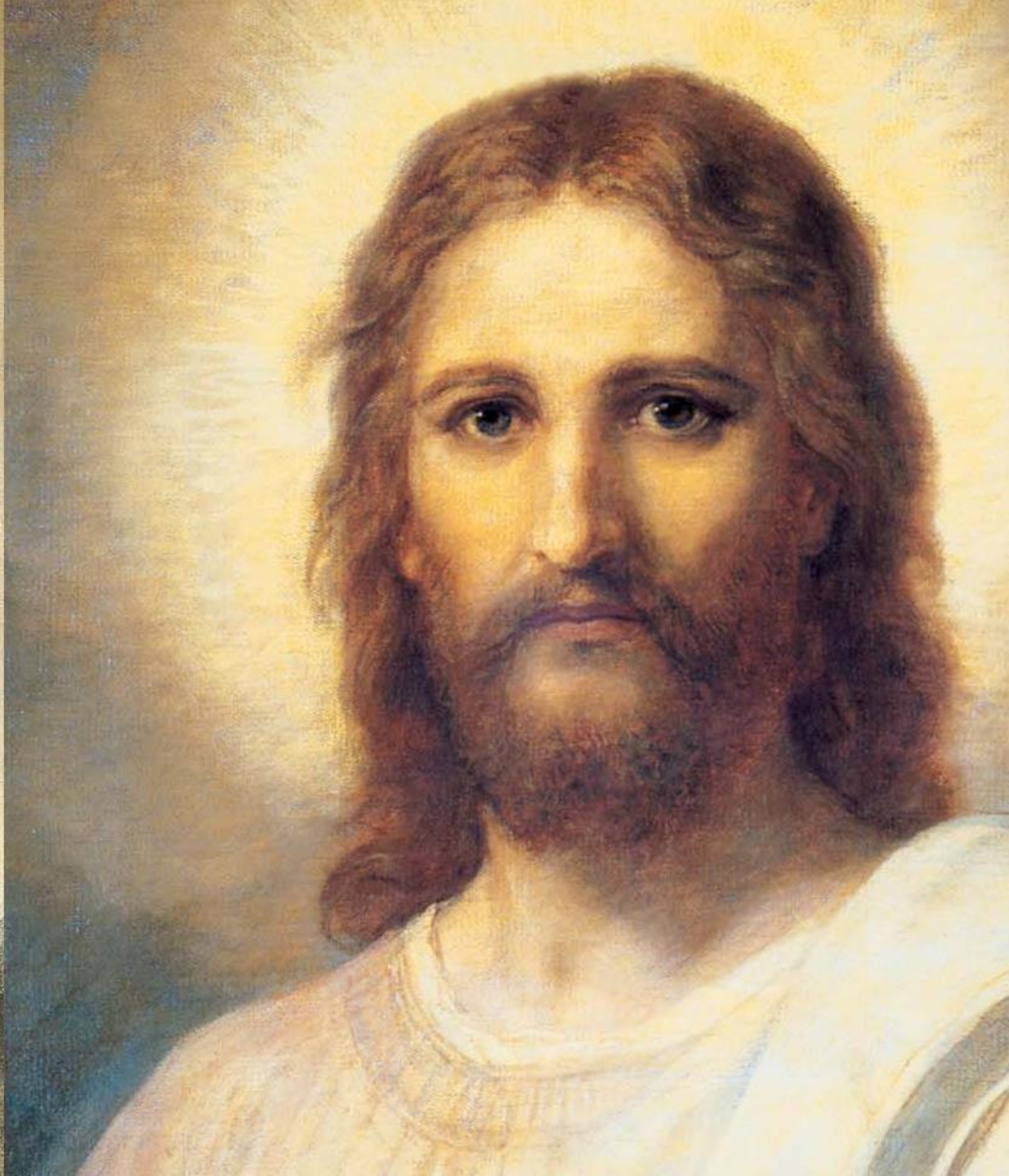
1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Gideon fleece sign



Hezekiah









Closed for 12c



## HE GAVE THEM THE SIGN

Matthew 12:38-39 (ESV) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” 39 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

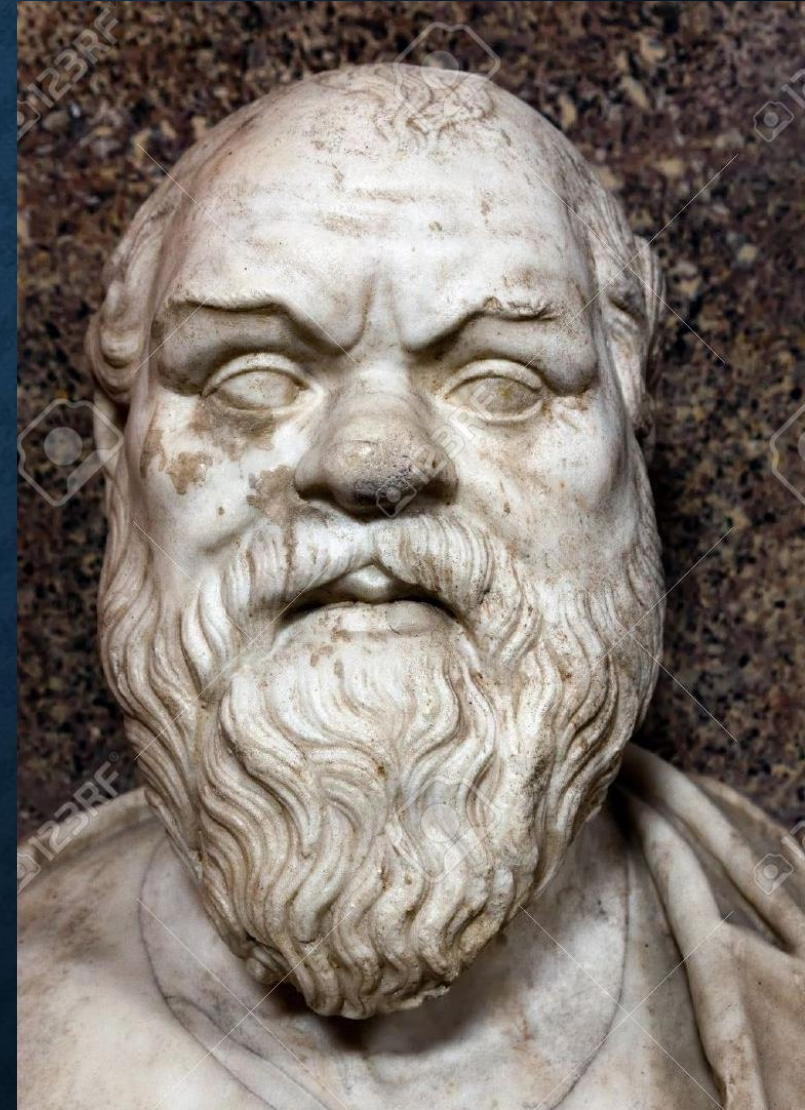
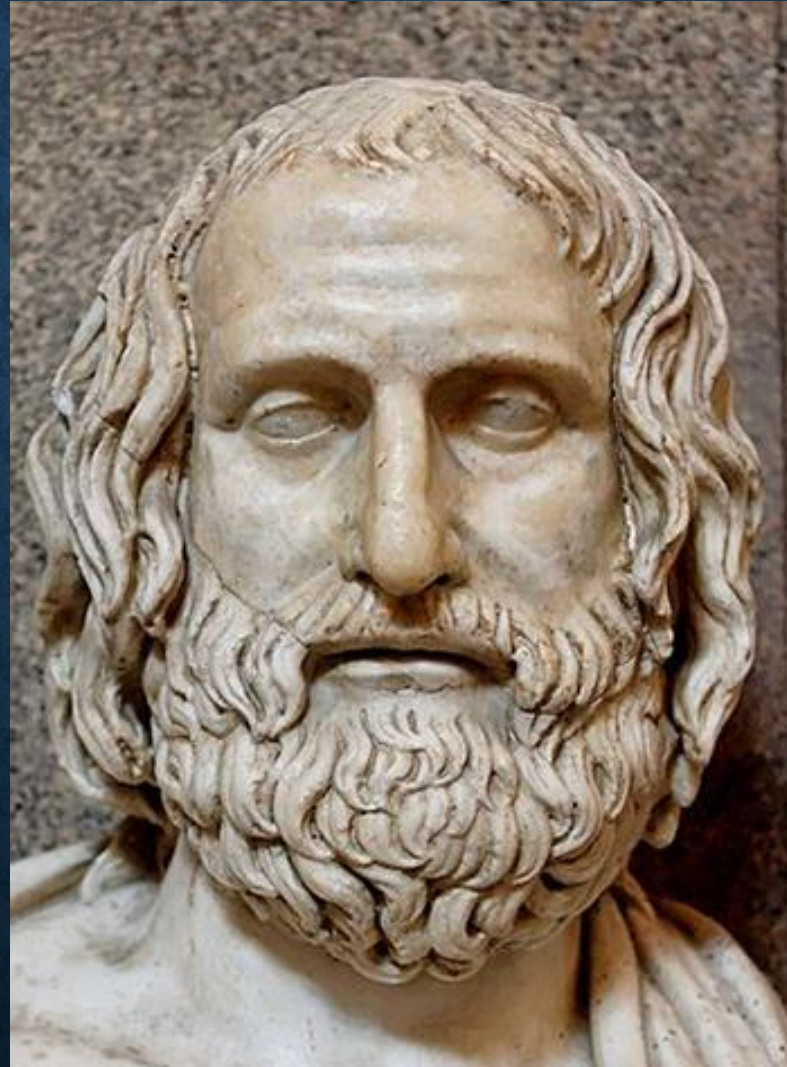
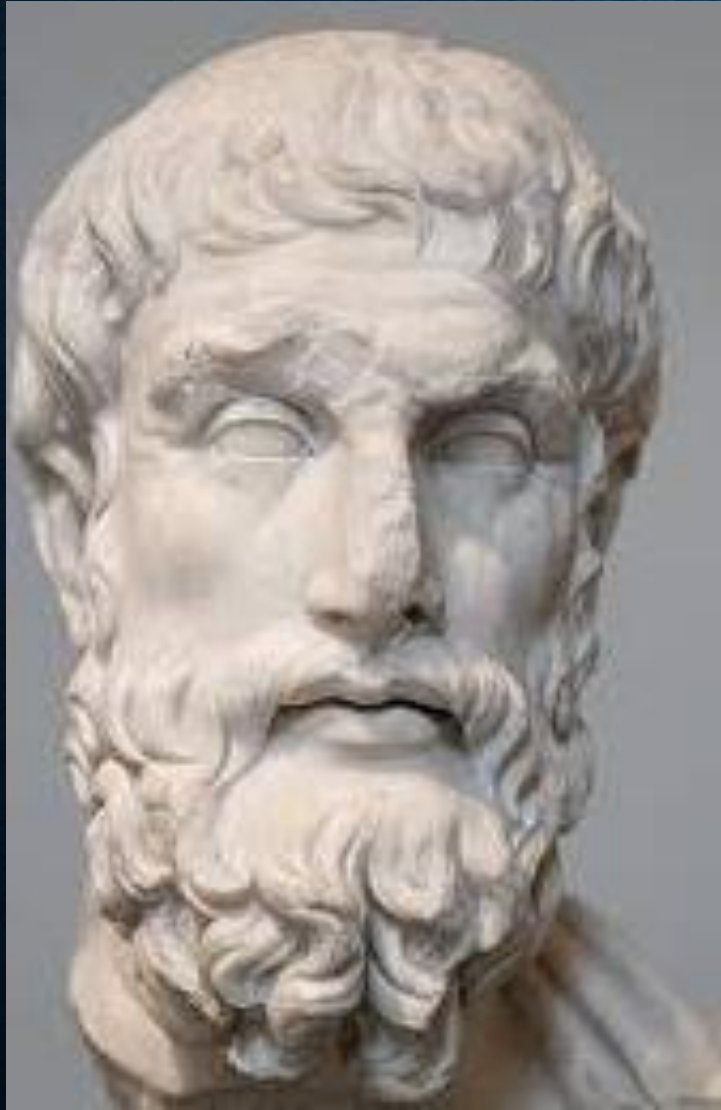
# WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE

## 2. THEIR WORLD VIEW



1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (ESV) For Jews demand signs and **Greeks seek wisdom**, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

# THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS





## CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS-ATHEIST ON RELIGION

Absurd ideas not based on reason and evidence

- Unworthy of intellectual respect.
- Historically led to or facilitated war, genocide, and ethnic cleansing. They have enslaved millions, impeded medical and scientific research



Factual Knowledge

Necessary  
Resolve

**Wisdom**

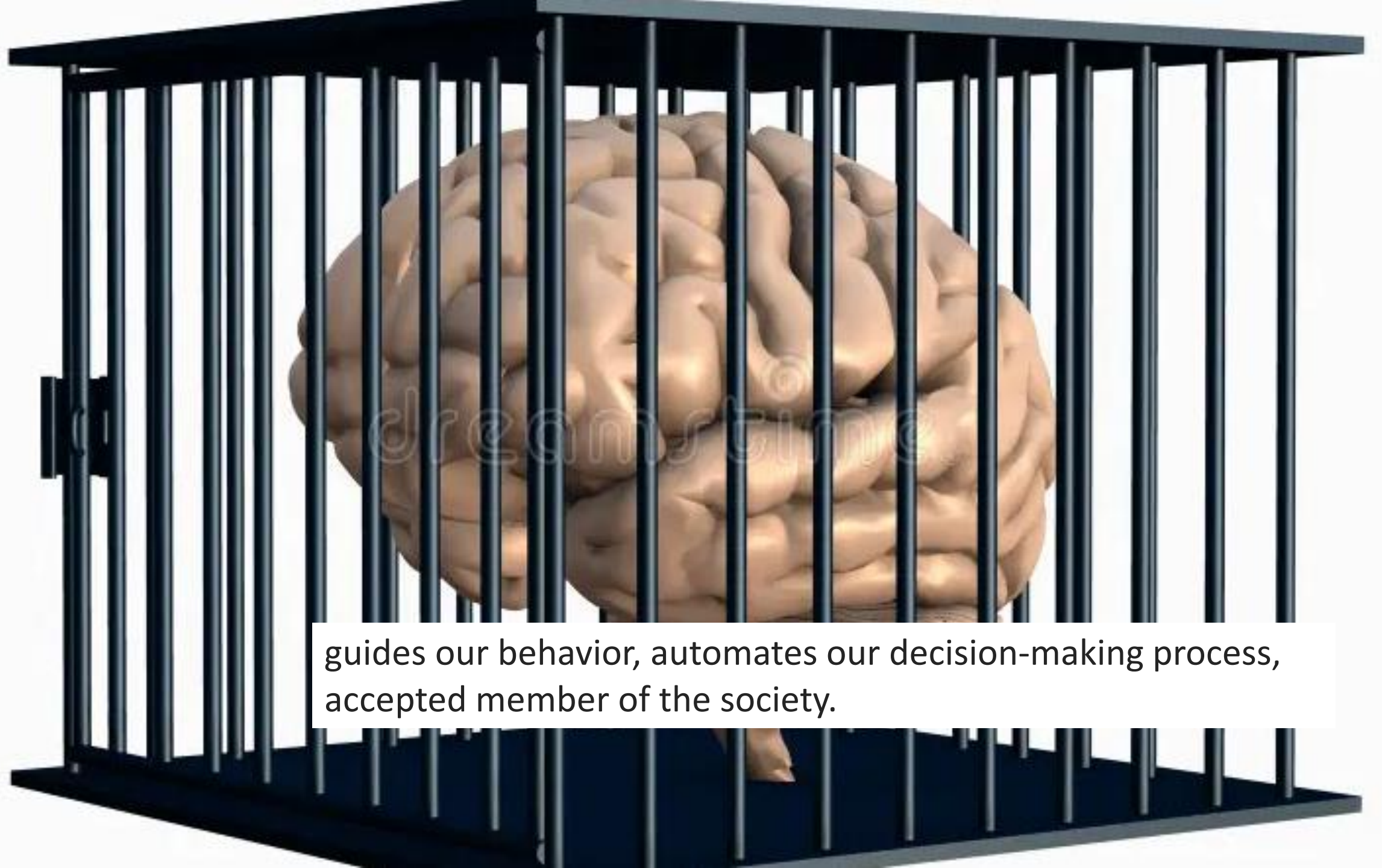
Situational  
Insight



## **THE NATURE OF HUMAN WISDOM**

*that wisdom is a culturally-situated and malleable construct, with culture playing a central role in shaping wisdom-related behaviors*






guides our behavior, automates our decision-making process, accepted member of the society.

A photograph of two women standing in a market. The woman on the left is wearing a dark grey hijab and a blue and white patterned jacket with a fur-lined hood. The woman on the right is wearing a colorful, multi-colored hijab and a dark grey jacket. They are both looking towards the right. The background is a blurred market scene with wooden stalls and people.

*“WHO HAS EVER SEEN TOMORROW?”*

Iranian culture has a very strong focus on the past ancient cultural products such as poetry and art as sources of wisdom and as guides for their behavior

A close-up portrait of a woman with intricate facial markings and traditional beaded jewelry. She has dark skin and is looking slightly to the right. Her face is adorned with fine, golden-brown lines that form a complex pattern, particularly around her eyes and on her cheeks. She is wearing multiple strands of beaded necklaces in shades of brown, grey, and blue. Her hair is styled in thick, braided sections. The background is softly blurred, showing warm, golden light. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Focus on the present  
live in the moment and the  
happiness and spontaneity this  
brings with it

*“FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE  
WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY”*



# The Star

**RM10,000: Scalpers selling tickets to Taylor Swift SG shows for 10 times the original price**

Wednesday, 05 Jul 2023  
7:45 PM MYT



A photograph of Michio Kaku, a theoretical physicist, speaking. He is wearing a dark suit, a light-colored shirt, and a green tie. He has white hair and is gesturing with his right hand, showing four fingers. The background is a dark blue wall.

## MICHO KAKU

**THE FOOL SAYS IN HIS  
HEART THERE IS NO GOD**

**HUMAN LOGIC TRAPS HIM**

Theoretical physicist  
String theory

...e concluded that we  
...a world made by  
rules created by an  
intelligence. To me, it is  
...hat we exist in a plan  
...is governed by rules  
...that were created, shaped  
by a universal intelligence  
and not by chance.”

## **WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE**

### **3. GOD DESIGNED IT TO SHOW THE LIMITATIONS OF MANS WISDOM SO HE CAN TURN TO GOD**

1 Corinthians 1:19 (ESV) For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

# WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE



## 3. GOD DESIGNED IT TO SHOW THE LIMITATIONS OF MANS WISDOM SO HE CAN TURN TO GOD

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 (ESV) Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe



# **CORINTHIANS WERE NOT WISE OR POWERFUL**

1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth

# 1 CORINTHIANS 1:27-29 (ESV)

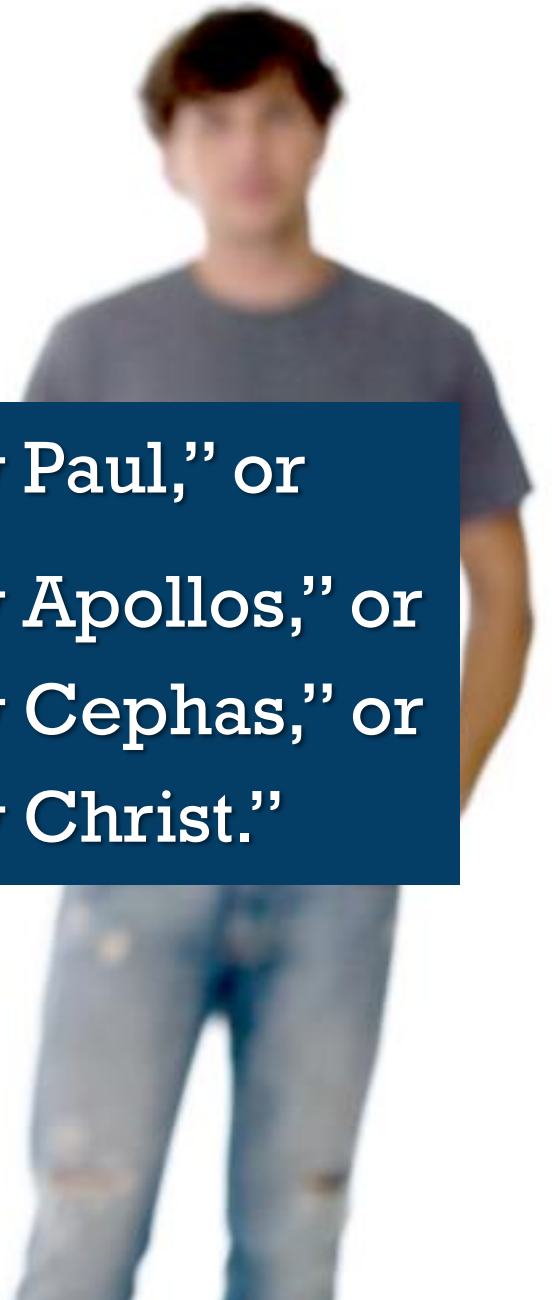
God Chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God Chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

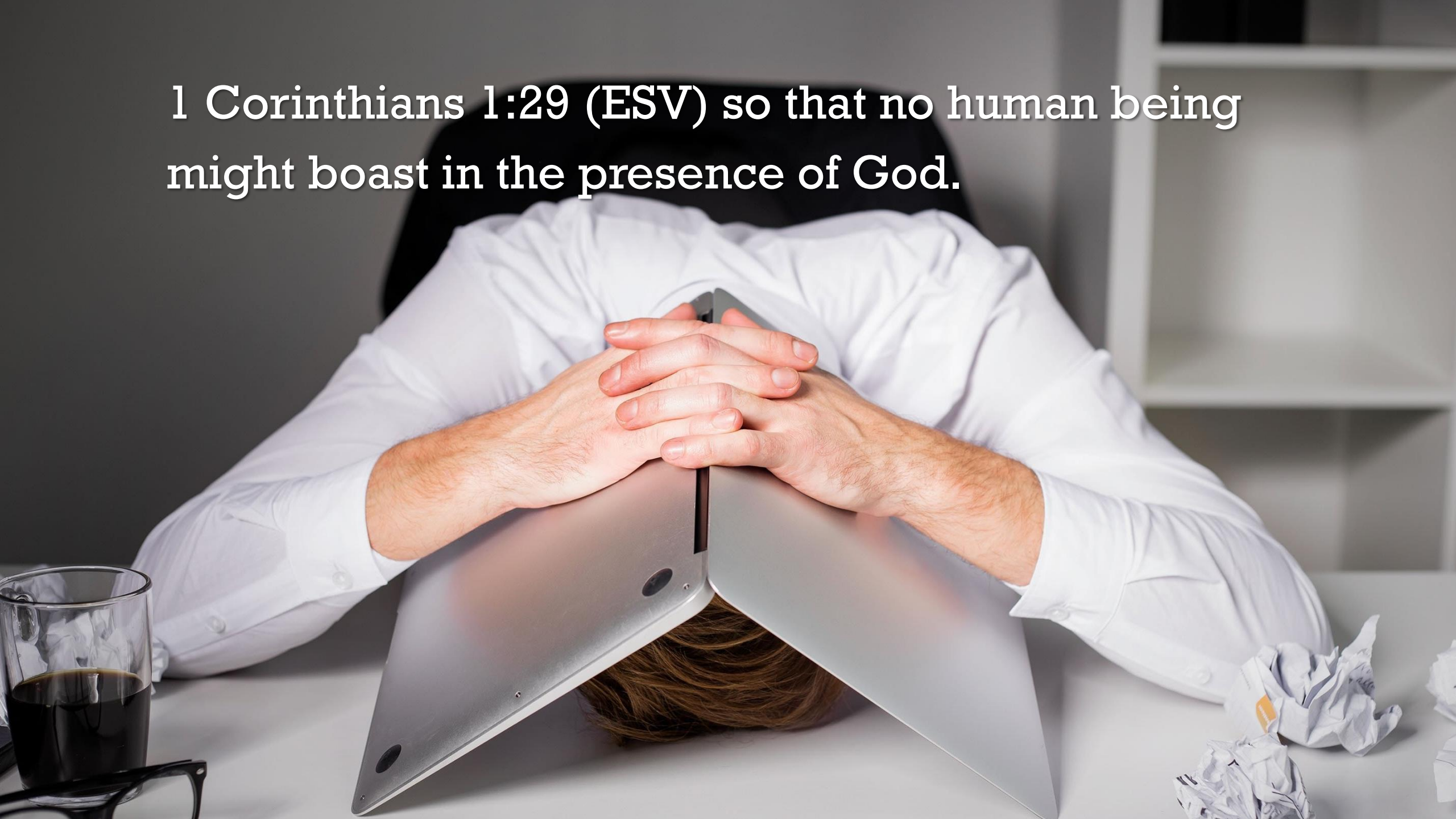
God Chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not to bring to nothing things that are,



“I follow Paul,” or  
“I follow Apollos,” or  
“I follow Cephas,” or  
“I follow Christ.”



1 Corinthians 1:29 (ESV) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.





# WHY IT IS COUNTER-INTUITIVE

## 4. OUR OWN CHOICE OF WISDOM ACTUALLY PREVENTS US FROM RECEIVING THE TRUTH

1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (ESV) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

**Produces a visceral revulsion**



# THE WISDOM OF GOD





## DEUTERONOMY 21:22-23

22 "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day,

for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance

## **RABBI TRYPHO' S REPLY**

**“But this your so –called Christ is without honor and glory and glory so that he is even fallen into the uttermost curse that is in the Law of God for he was crucified”**

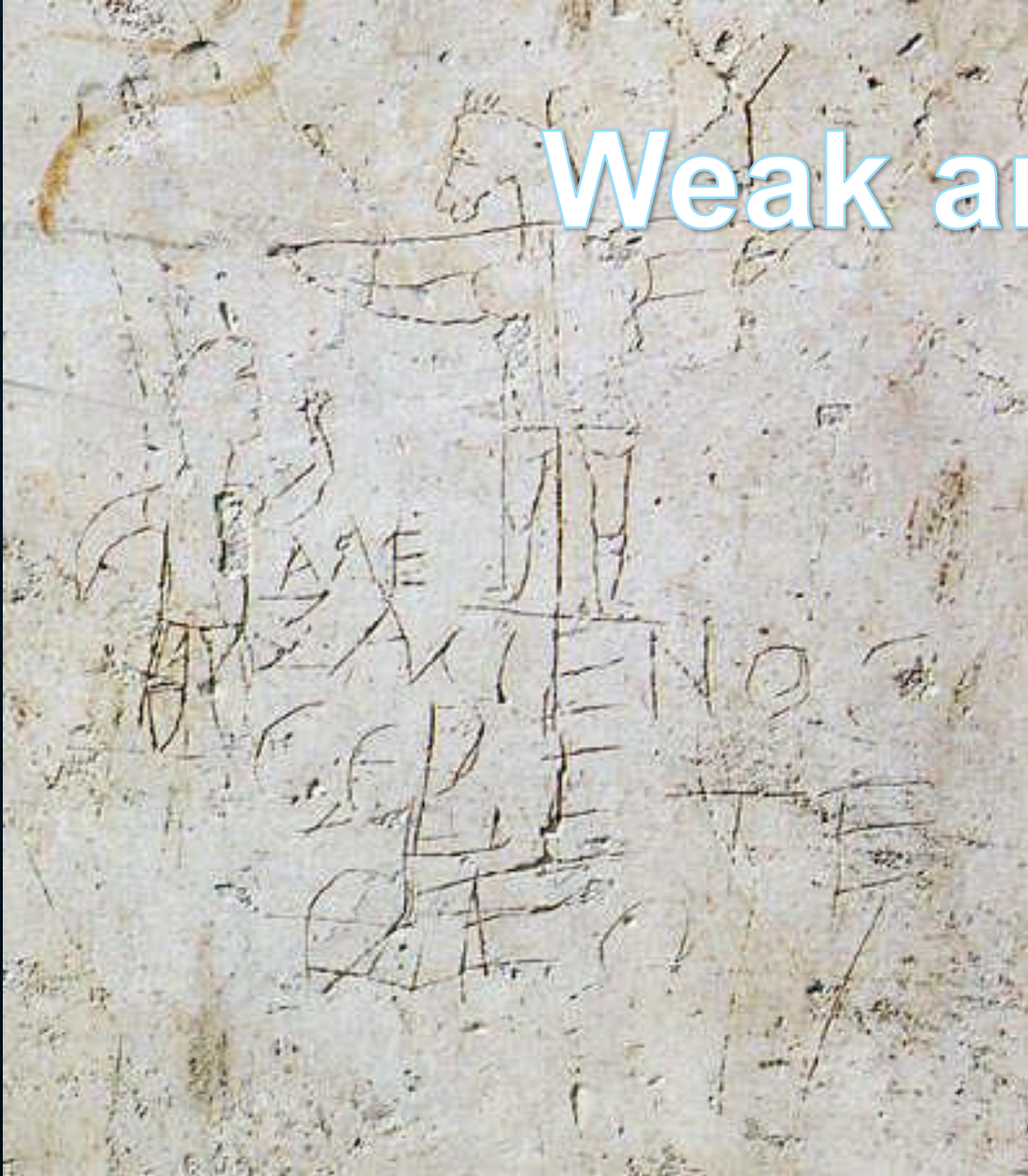
# **CELSUS--REASON**



God is good and beautiful and happy, and if that which is most beautiful and best, if then he descends to man it involves change for him and a change from good to bad from beautiful to ugly, from happiness to unhappiness from what is best to what is worst, and God would never accept such a change

# ALEXAMENOS WORSHIPS HIS GOD

Weak and Stupid





## ROSALIND PICARD

*the hardest trials have been those of confronting my own pride, and my unwillingness to examine anything other than the materialist assumptions made (unthinkingly) by so many of us.*

Whacky,

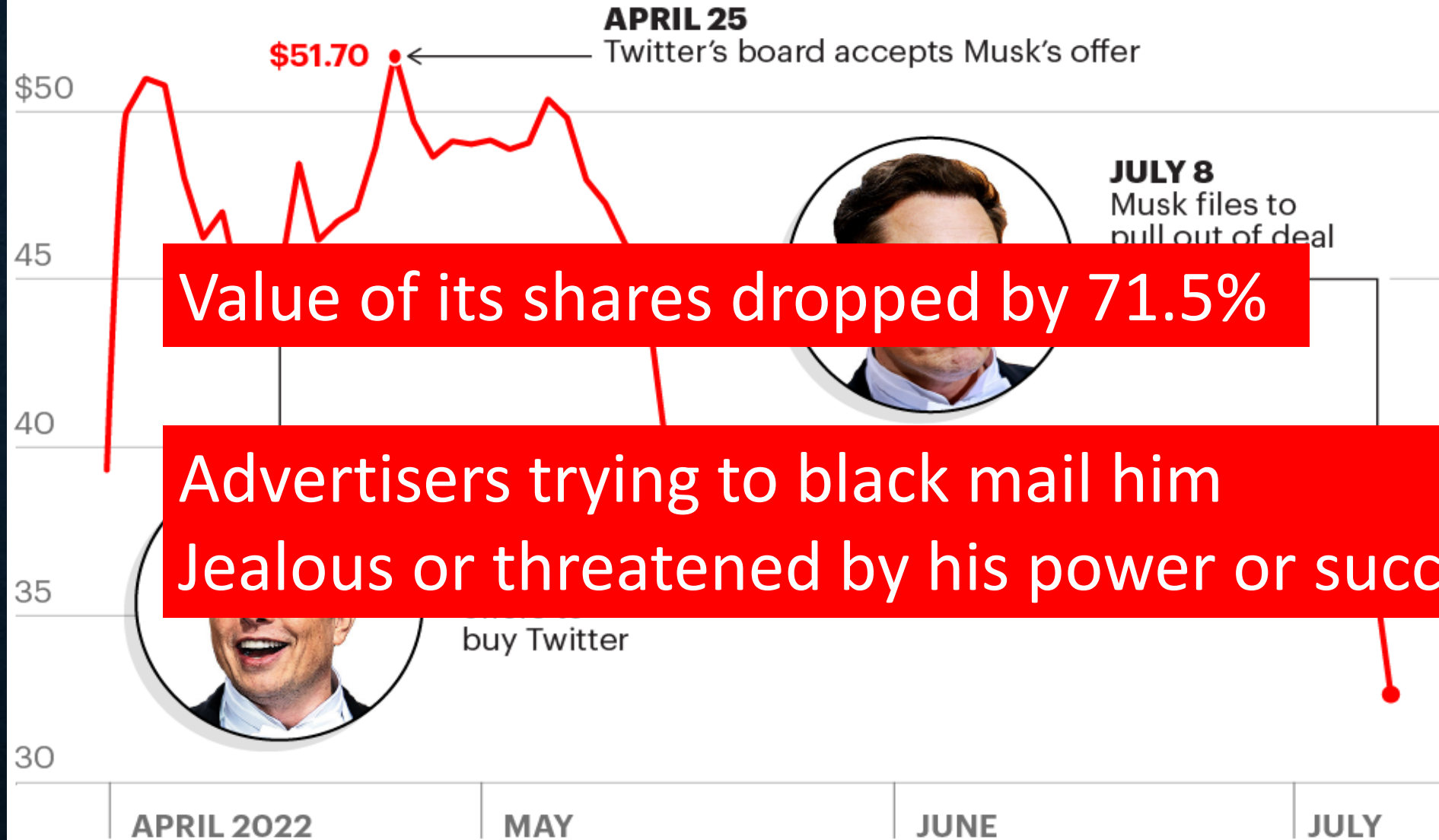


## WISDOM

Sees the world as a series of value propositions

He measured himself through his financial success

# TWITTER'S SHARE PRICE DURING MUSK ACQUISITION



Value of its shares dropped by 71.5%

Advertisers trying to black mail him  
Jealous or threatened by his power or success





## MARTIN LUTHER HEIDELBERG DISPUTATION

*It is certain that we  
must utterly despair  
of our own ability  
before we are  
prepared to receive  
the grace of Christ.*

# THE GOSPEL :THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. True Wisdom is in Christ
2. True Wisdom is totally counterintuitive
3. True Wisdom is given by the Spirit

# 1. WORLDLY WISDOM IS LIMITED



1 Corinthians 2:6 (ESV) Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

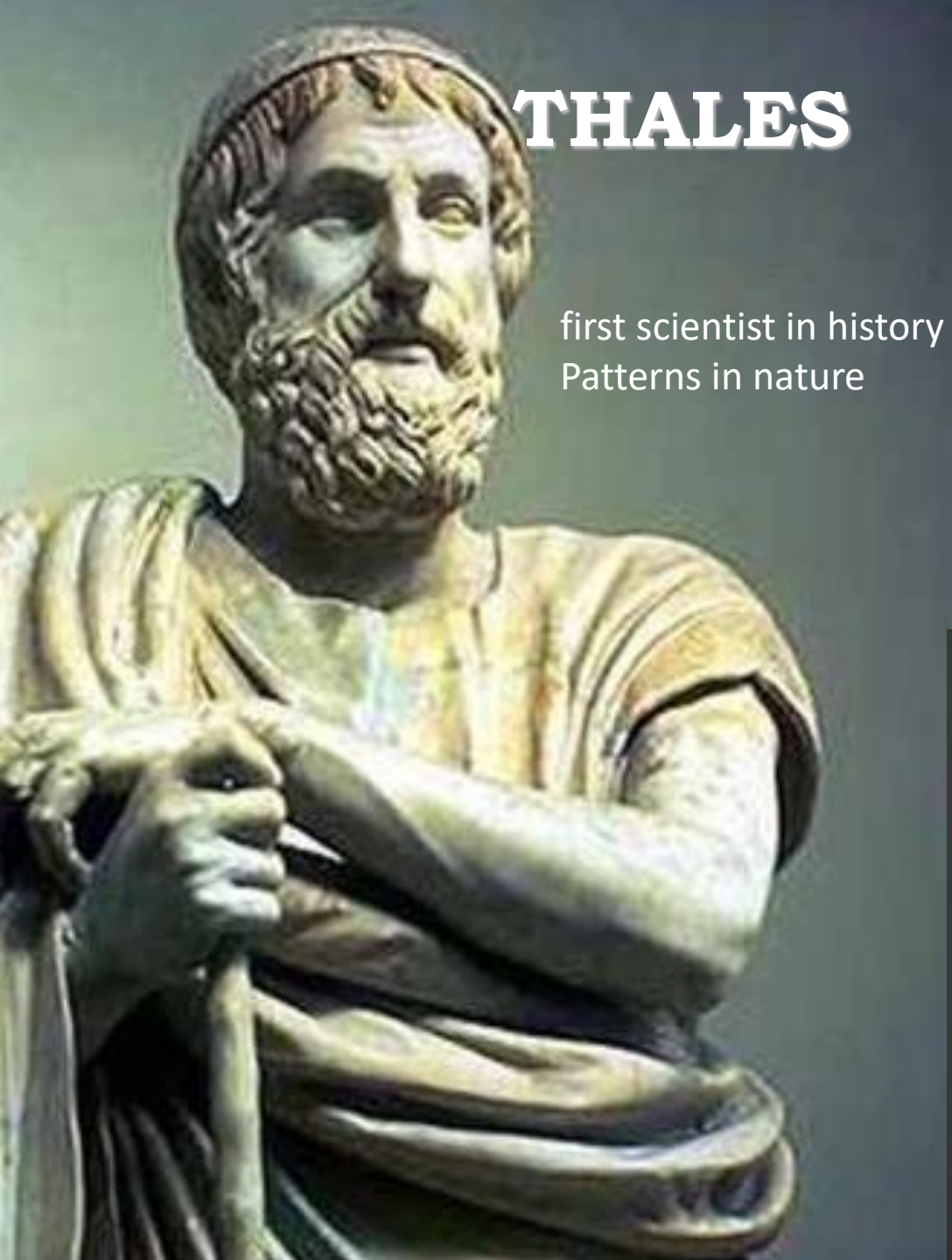
A close-up photograph of Mahatir Mohamad, an elderly man with glasses, speaking into a microphone. He is wearing a blue shirt. In the background, several other people are visible, some wearing blue shirts and white caps, and one person is wearing a blue surgical mask. The scene appears to be an outdoor public event.

**Mahatir's Sad Ending**

**Malaysiakini Mar 14 2022**  
**Andrew Sia**

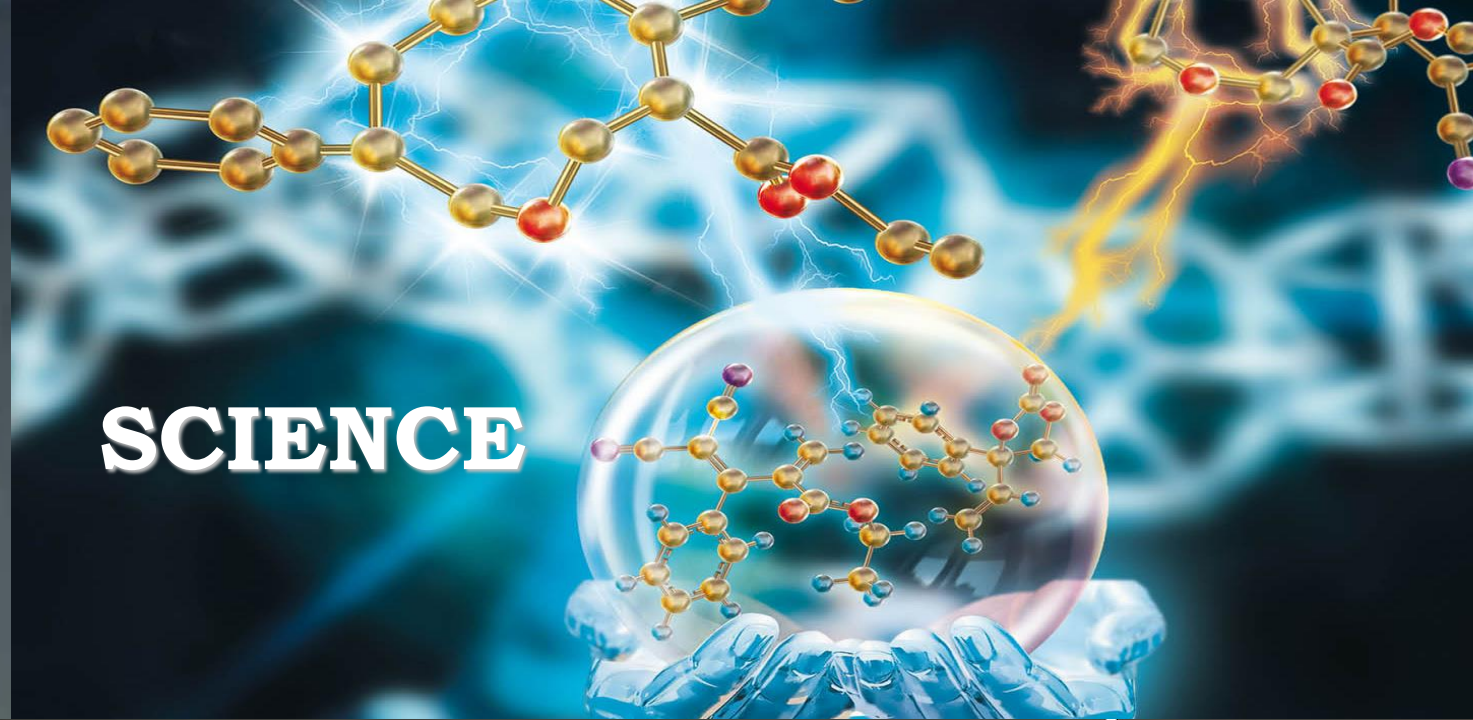
©Nurhilmy Basiron / Office of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

Dr Mahathir Mohamad Facebook

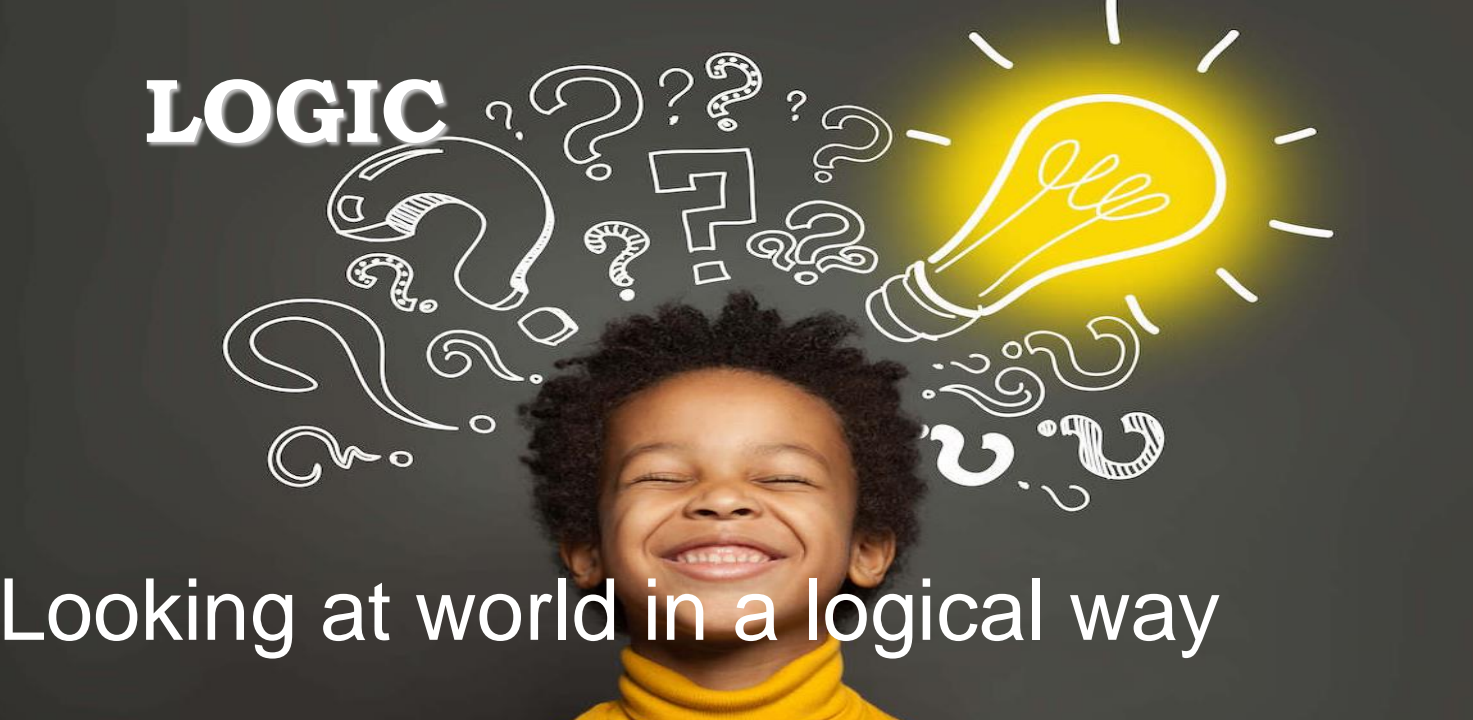


# THALES

first scientist in history  
Patterns in nature

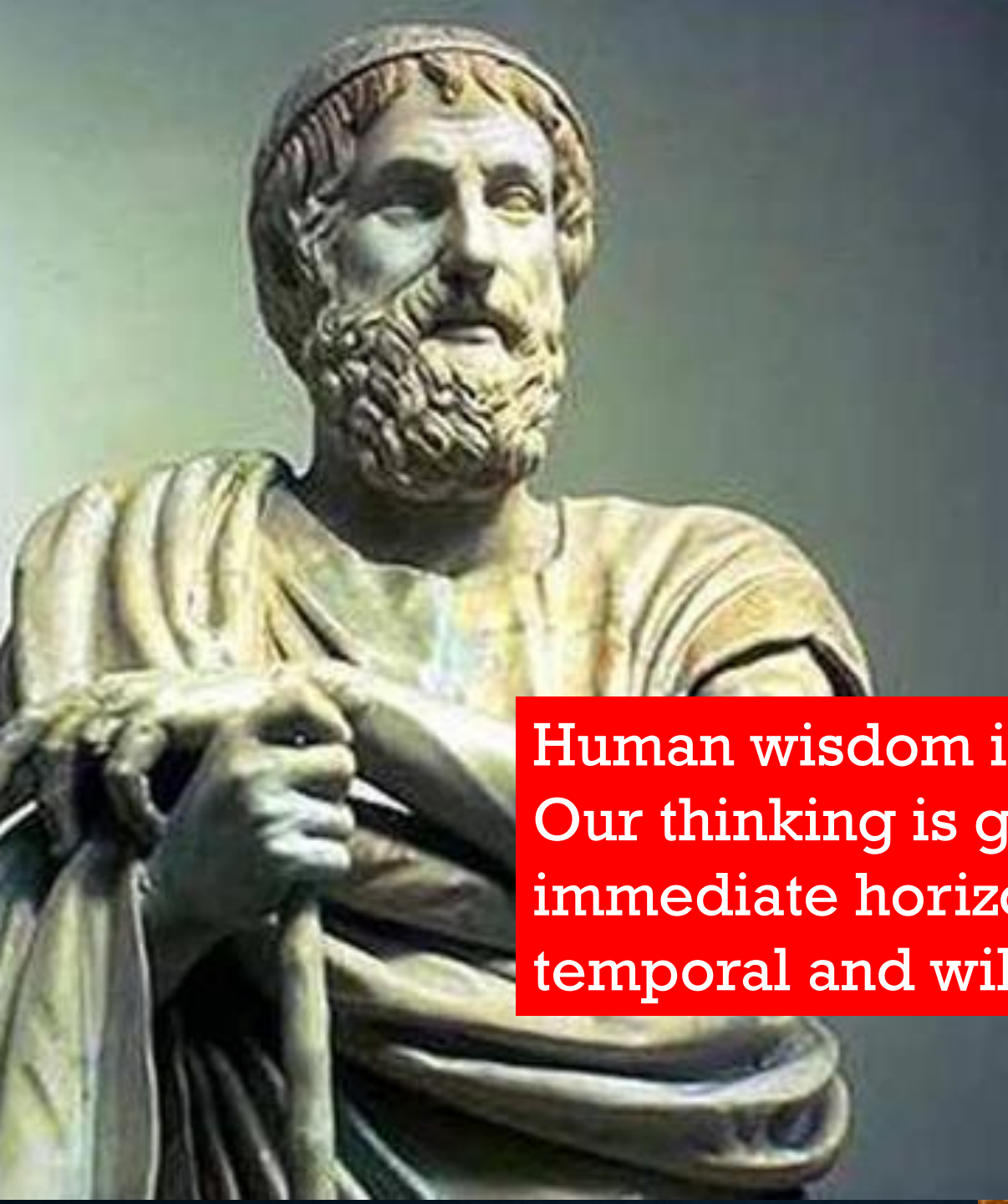


# SCIENCE



# LOGIC

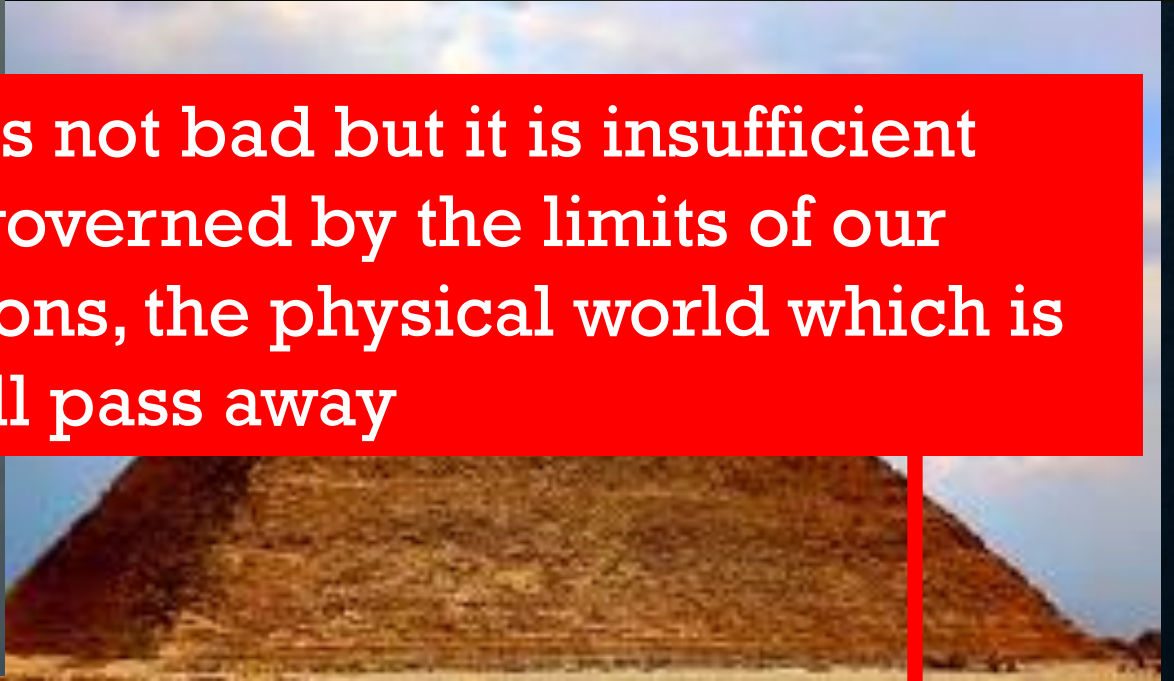
Looking at world in a logical way



Worked out total eclipse of sun



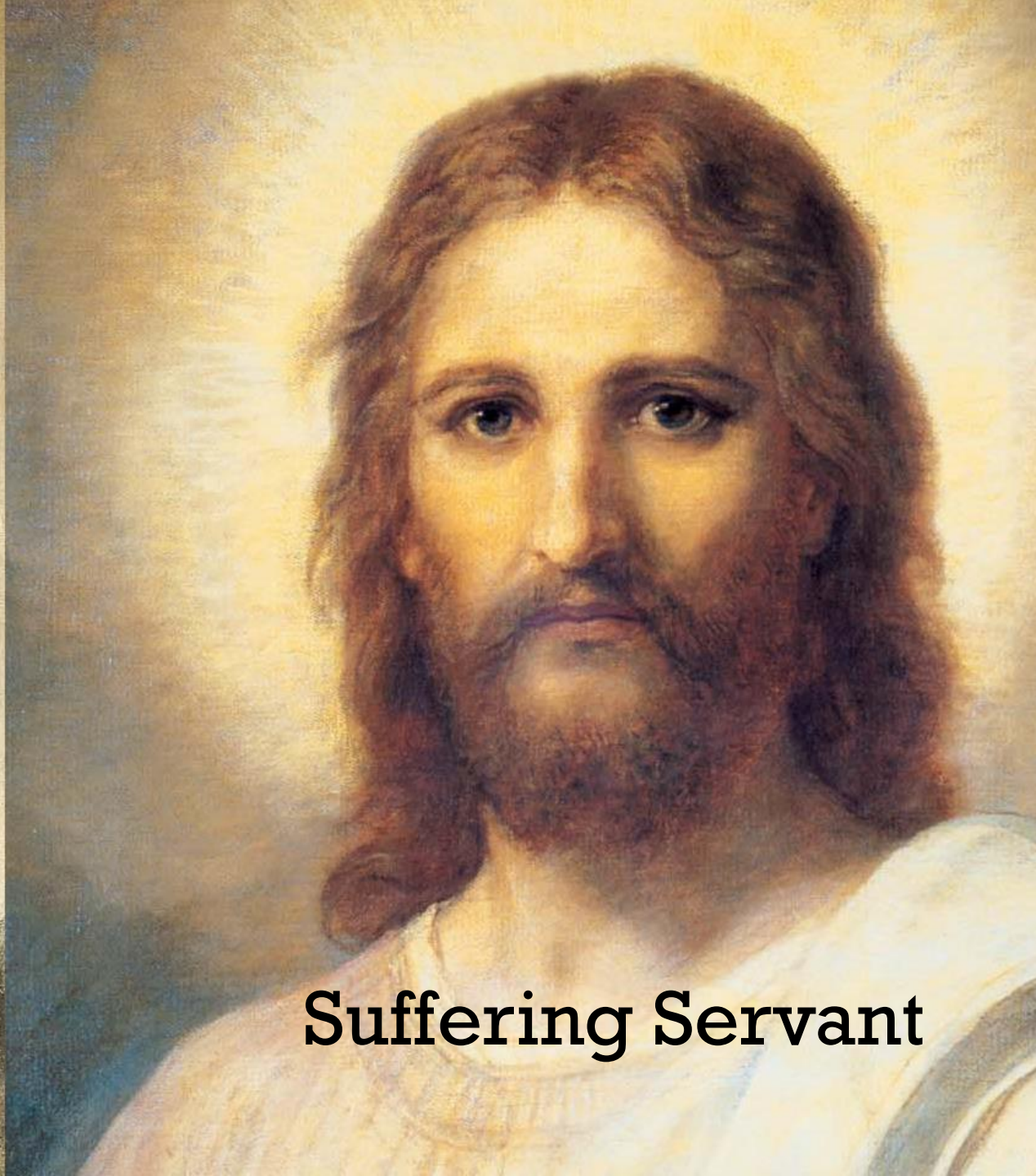
Human wisdom is not bad but it is insufficient  
Our thinking is governed by the limits of our  
immediate horizons, the physical world which is  
temporal and will pass away







**Triumphant King**



**Suffering Servant**





**ROSALIND PICARD**

**History just as valid  
as science**

## 2. SPIRITUAL WISDOM WAS DELIBERATELY HIDDEN



The purpose of this wisdom is to bring us to glory

1 Corinthians 2:7-9 (ESV) But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written

Spiritual wisdom not understood by the elite

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

Unimaginable  
glory

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (ESV) 10 For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

**God's wisdom is divine revelations through the Spirit through the spirit.**



For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.


13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.



1 The wisdom revealed to us is the most intimate truth because  
it comes from the Spirit of God

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

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1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (ESV) these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. 

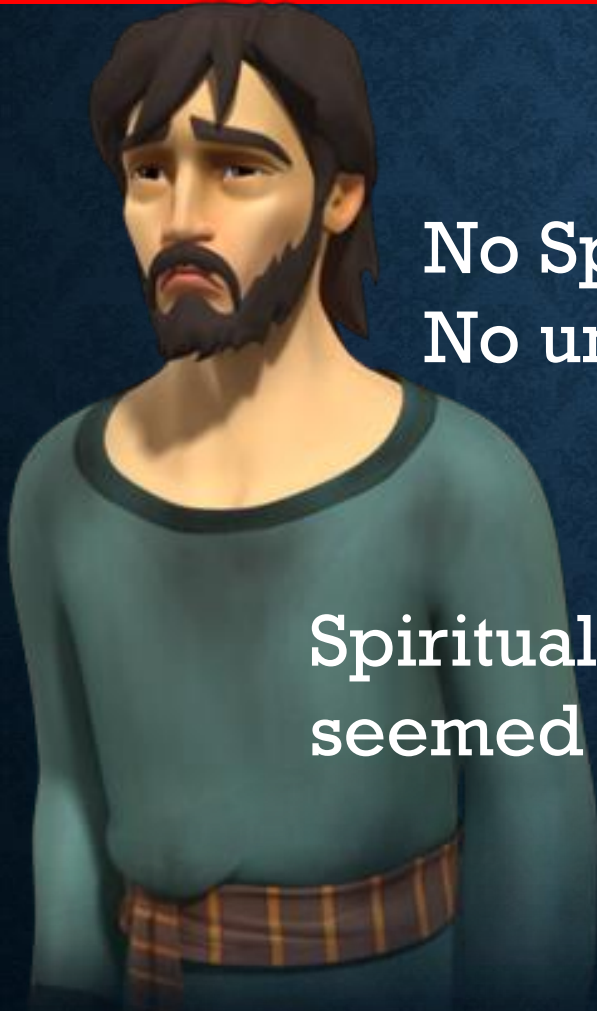
For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand the things that have been freely given us by God.

The wisdom we share with you comes from His Spirit and is can only be accepted by believers who have His Spirit too

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

# COMPARISON

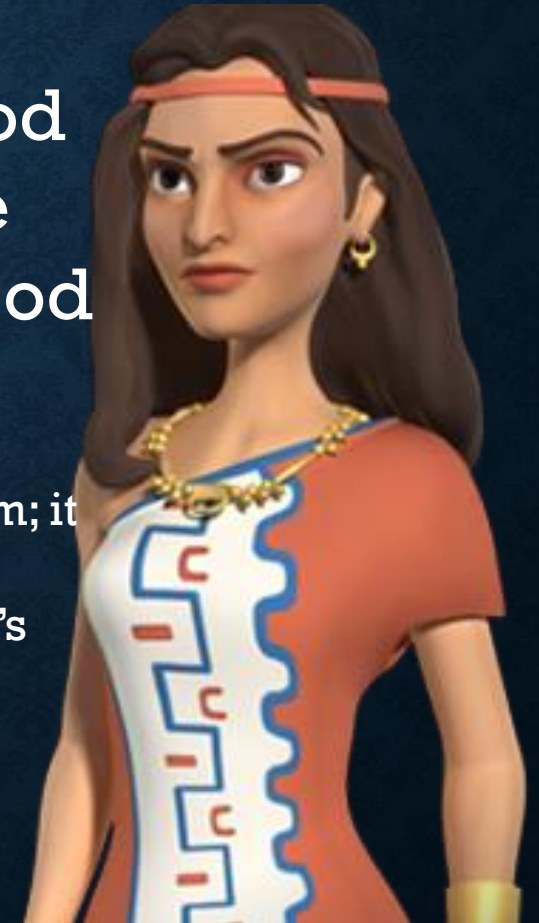
## Natural Person



No Spirit of God  
No understanding

Spiritual things  
seemed stupid

## Spiritual Person



Spirit of God  
reveals the  
things of God

Does not lead to elitism; it  
leads to a deeper  
understanding of God's  
profound mystery—  
redemption through a  
crucified Messiah.

# COMPARISON

Natural Person

Spiritual Person



Carnal Christian

## Alternative view

Diminishes the cross  
Spiritual Elitism



Spiritual Christian  
Leader  
2<sup>nd</sup> blessing

# **APPLICATION**



# WISDOM

Sees the world as a series of value propositions

saw the world in terms of attraction and attention



He measured himself through his financial success

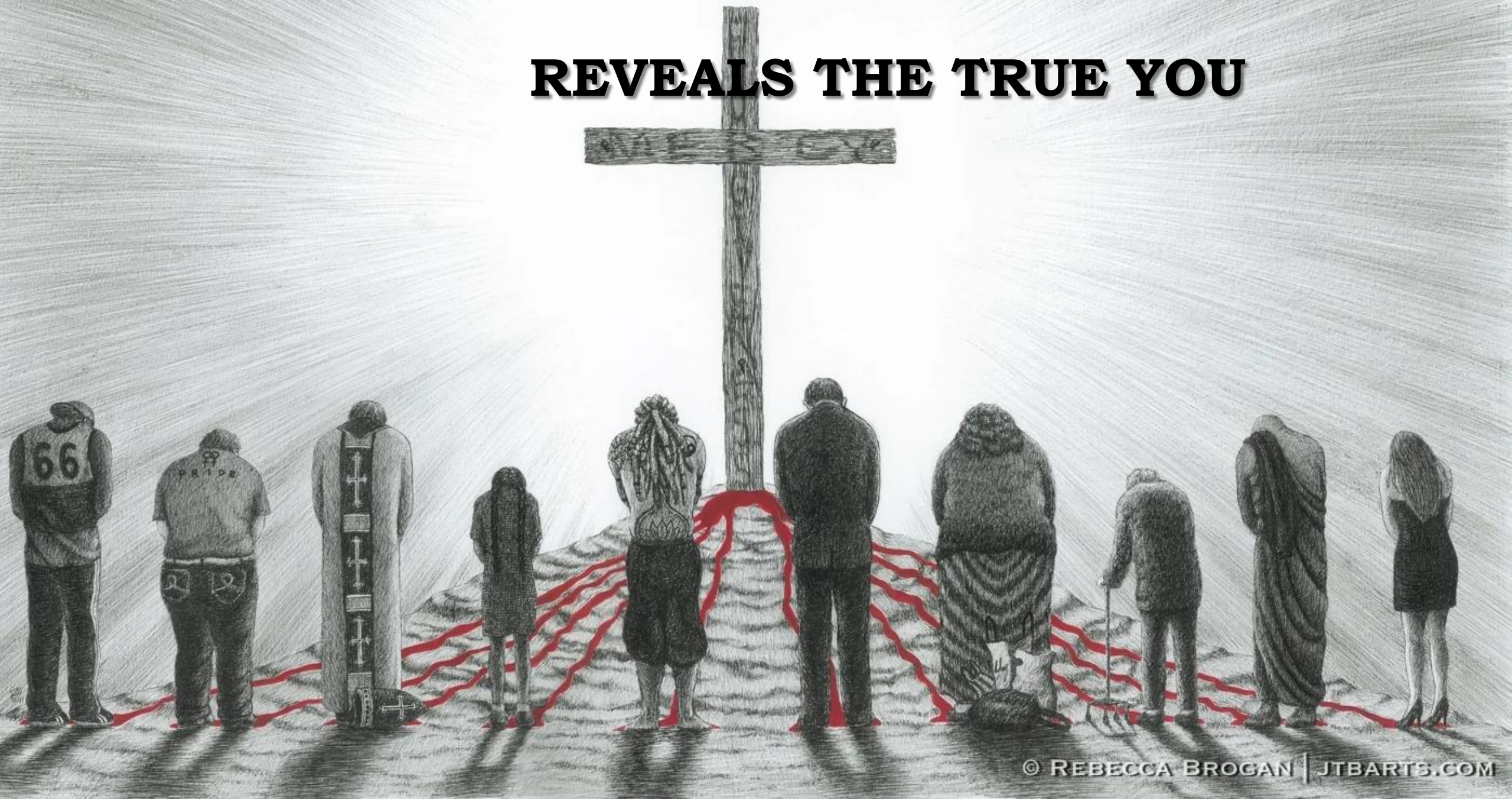


**FINANCIAL**

**PUBLIC ADULATION**

**BEAUTY AND SKILL**

# REVEALS THE TRUE YOU





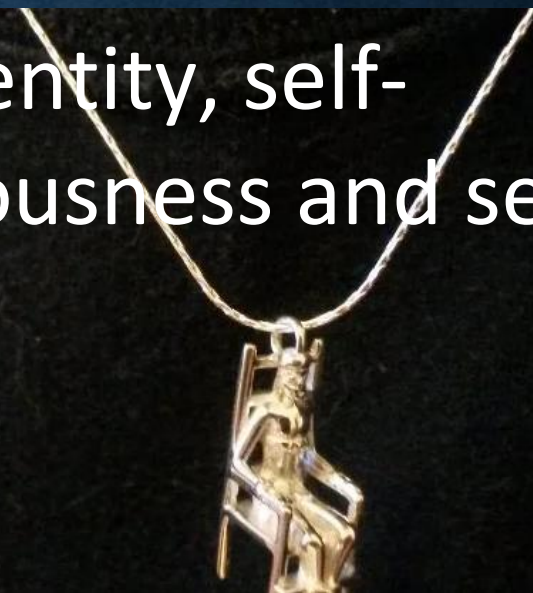
**SUPERSTITIOUS**





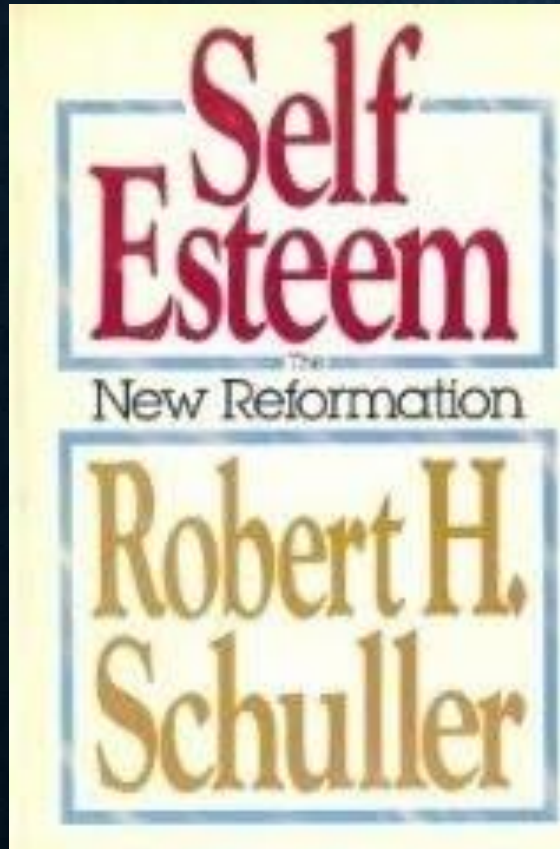


self-identity, self-  
righteousness and self-  
will.





# RECONCEPTUALIZATION OF SIN DIMINISH SIN—DIMINISH GRACE



*“Flawed strategy to  
gain fulfilment”*

Sin =sickness or addiction

The Need: Personal  
Fulfilment-The pursuit of  
Happiness



# WHY WE FOLLOW CHRIST?

## Gospel

- Sin and impending judgement
- Repentance
- Freedom from sin
- Righteousness
- Eternal Salvation

## Watering down the gospel

- Fulfilment
- Self esteem
- Improved marriage
- Thrilling life style
- Purpose



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

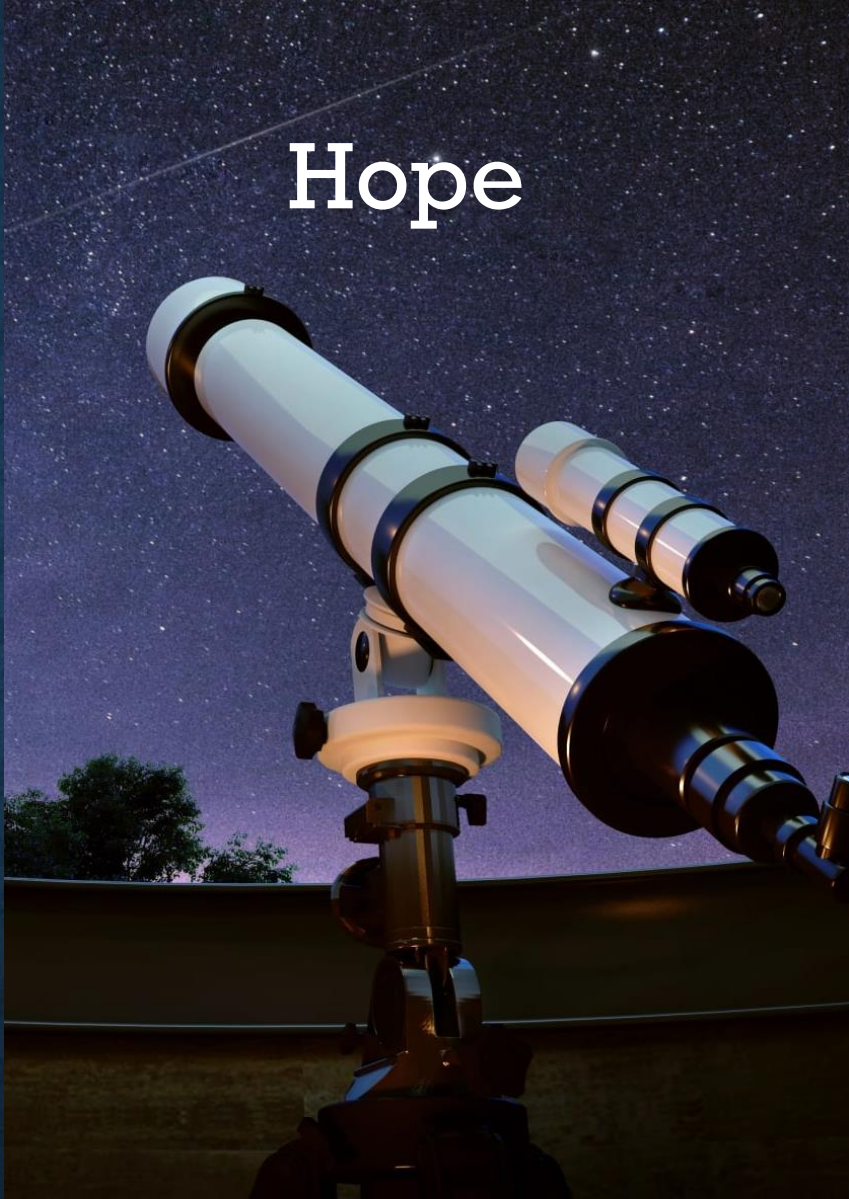


Mould our message  
Mould our minds

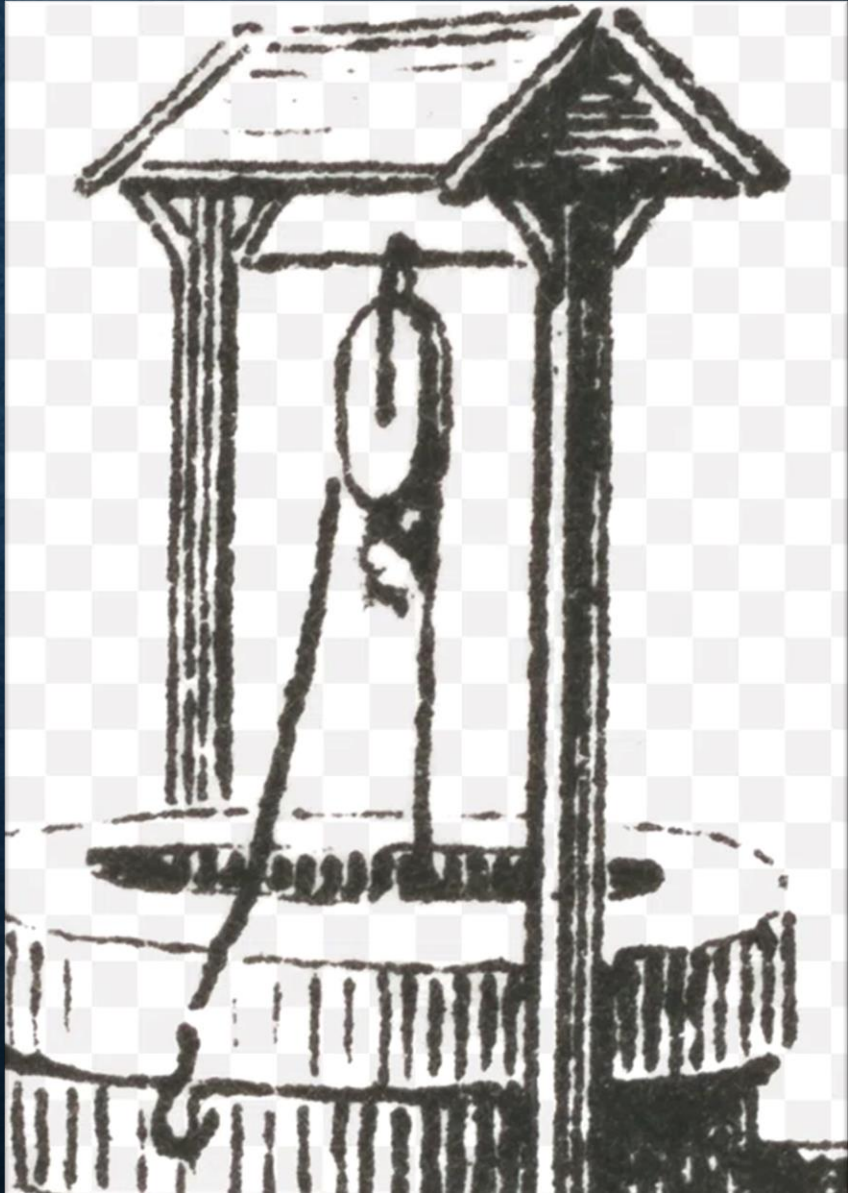
Grace



Hope



Love





Unforgiveness

Self worth

Diminished by the wrong doing

Price to pay



# **SPIRITUAL REALITIES**

dreamstime

# The Grace of our Lord Jesus





## THE CROSS MEANS YOU HAVE DIED

1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

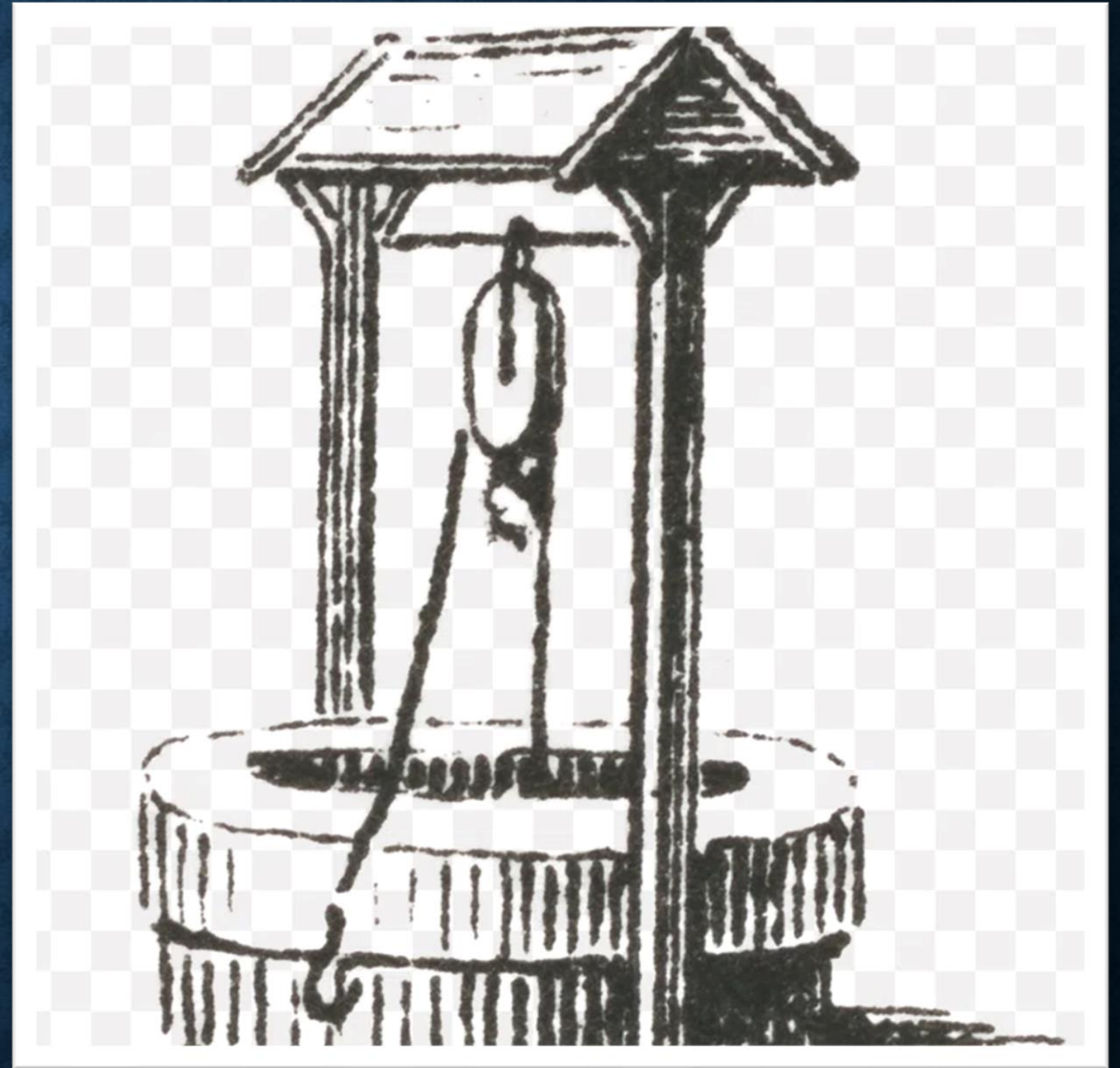




## RESPONSE TO GRACE

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV) 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Thinking about His costly grace,  
until the gospel changes you  
from the heart into generous  
people



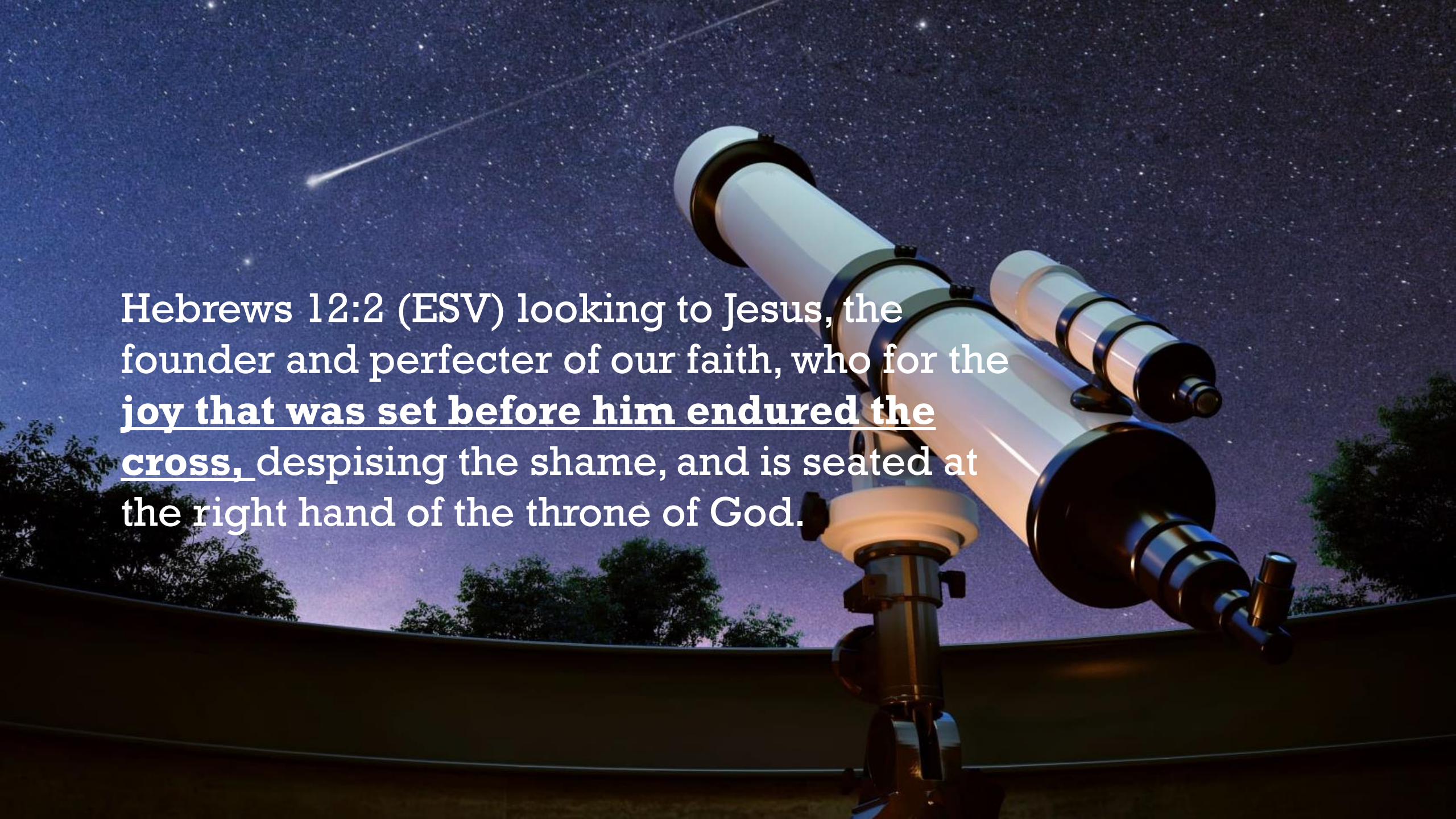


**Impose more rules  
I must forgive**

**Moralistic  
Behaviour change**



**Change heart**

A large white telescope on a tripod is positioned in the foreground, angled towards the upper right. The background is a dark night sky filled with stars and a prominent white meteor streak. The telescope has a white main tube and black accents. The sky is a deep blue-purple, and the foreground shows the dark silhouette of trees and a curved horizon line.

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Result **Hope and strength**

Mould our message  
Mould our minds

**Direction**

Incarnation/upside-down

Atonement/inside-out

**Response to Grace**

