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deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

The Signs of the Times

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Looking for the “Signs of the Times”

The Signs of the Times

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Matthew 16:2-3

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I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

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Why this charge to Timothy?

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For the time will come when (who) they will not endure sound doctrine, but (what) according to their own desires, (why) because they have itching ears, they will heap up for (who) themselves teachers; and they will (what) turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

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Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Signs of the Times

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless (what) the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

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It means a rebellion or revolt. It is a deliberate defection from a formerly held religious position.

There has always been a degree of apostasy in the history of the church.

But now, at the end times, it will reach its peak.

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And from such people turn away!

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2 Peter 3:3-4

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Knowing this first: that scoffers will come (when) in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

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Jude 17-19

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But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers (when) in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

These are sensual (the immaterial life held in common with animals, fleshy) persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

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Signs of the Times

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How do we respond?

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What are we to do?

Apologetics

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R.C. Sproul

Apologetics

“The defense of the faith is not a luxury or intellectual vanity. It is a task appointed by God that you should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in you as you bear witness before the world.”

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But our God does not need to be defended.

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“The defense of the faith is not a luxury or intellectual vanity. It is a task appointed by God that you should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in you as you bear witness before the world.”

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But our God does not need to be defended.

You cannot lead someone to Christ by answering all their questions about faith and the Scriptures.

Apologetics

Why?

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Why?

Because faith in Him is a gift from God and, before God imparts faith to the individual, the lost are incapable of believing the Gospel.

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So, is apologetics important?

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Why?

Because faith in Him is a gift from God and, before God imparts faith to the individual, the lost are incapable of believing the Gospel.

To them, our faith in the cross of Christ is moronic.

So, is apologetics important?

Absolutely.

But not necessarily in how you think.

1 Corinthians 1:18

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For the message (or, preaching) of the cross is foolishness (*mōría* – folly, absurdity, moronic, stupid, senseless, foolhardy, insane) to (who) those who are perishing (or, being destroyed completely, to render void), but to (who) us who are being saved (to deliver, make whole, preserve safe from danger, loss, or destruction) it (the message of the cross) is the power (*dúnamis*) of God.

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How do we know this to be true?

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For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
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It is a prophecy being filled today.







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Answer:

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Question: Has not (who) God made (what) foolish the wisdom of this world (*kósmos*)?

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But why did God choose to humiliate the wise?

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For since, in the (what) wisdom of God, the world through (its) wisdom did not know (*ginōskō* – or choose to know) God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached (foolishness to those who are perishing) to save those who believe.

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Note: It pleased God to reveal Himself by faith and not by what can be seen or scientifically proved.

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Note: It pleased God to reveal Himself by faith and not by what can be seen or scientifically proved.

After all, that is the nature and definition of faith.

Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

For by it (faith) the elders obtained a good testimony.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed
by the word of God, so that the things which are seen
were not made of things which are visible.

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And how do we know this?

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For by it (faith) the elders obtained a good testimony.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed
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And how do we know this?

So we have a choice, to believe or not believe.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

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For Jews request a sign (no faith), and Greeks seek after wisdom (no faith); but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called (effectual calling), both Jews and Greeks, Christ the (1) power (*dúnamis*) of God (2) and the wisdom of God.

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But what about the wisdom of the world?

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But what about the wisdom of the world?

What about science, logic, rational thinking, etc.?

1 Corinthians 1:25

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Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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So we have a choice.

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Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
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So we have a choice.

We can trust God at His Word, regardless of what we
have been taught in school, media, or by our culture.

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So we have a choice.

We can trust God at His Word, regardless of what we have been taught in school, media, or by our culture.

Or we can become “double-minded” and try to hold to the wisdom of this fallen world and the wisdom and power of God at the same time.

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Or we can become “double-minded” and try to hold to the wisdom of this fallen world and the wisdom and power of God at the same time.

Good luck with that.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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Our Calling by His Choice

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

The reason for apologetics is for you to be secure in your faith and not necessarily to convince someone by the power of your arguments to receive Christ.

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That is a sovereign act of God alone.

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And prior to the impartation of faith in the elect, our most important argument is foolishness (stupid, ridiculous, moronic, insane) to those who are perishing.

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

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Jesus never gave signs for others to believe in Him.

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

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Do you believe in the creation account in Genesis?

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

Do you believe in the creation account in Genesis?

Do you believe in the virgin birth?

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

Do you believe in the creation account in Genesis?

Do you believe in the virgin birth?

Do you believe in the floating ax head?

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

Do you believe in the creation account in Genesis?

Do you believe in the virgin birth?

Do you believe in the floating ax head?

Do you believe in the lion's den or the fiery furnace?

Your Belief vs. God's Wisdom

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Is your reason higher than God's wisdom?

Are your doubts greater than His grace?

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Let me share one with you.

