

“The Imperative of Having Discernment in the End-Times”

Matthew 24:22-25 November 29, 2020

Discernment- the ability by the Holy Spirit and with the Scripture as a foundation to perceive or judge between that which is good or evil.

LESSON 1- We must recognize the NEED for discernment

- A. The need is predicated on the nature of worldwide deception.
(1 John 5:19; 2 Cor 4:4; Gen 3:1, 13; Rev 12:9; 20:3, 8, 10)
- B. The need is predicated on worldwide HATRED
(John 15:18-19; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-20; 3:13; Romans 12:1-2)
- C. The need is predicated on God’s WARNING
(Matthew 24:22-25; 1 Timothy 4:1; Isaiah 5:19-20; 2 Thess 2:1-12)

LESSON 2- We must recognize the FOUNDATION for discernment

- A. The foundation is the Holy Spirit and the WORD
(1 Corinthians 2:14; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 5:11-14; Matt 4:4)

LESSON 3- We must recognize and seek the VALUE of discernment

- A. The value of discernment acknowledges God’s EXPECATION
(1 John 4:1-3; 1 Cor 12:10; Matt 7:15; 1 Thess 5:21; 1 Tim 6:20-21)

Theological Application:

1. *God desires for us to always compare ideas with Scripture.*
2. *God wants us to be trained to stay faithful to eternal values.*
3. *God wants us to be transformed from our cultural influences, not conformed! (Rom 12:2)*

Ephesians 6:11-18 helps protect discernment- righteous living and prayer.

Growth in discernment- Ask WHY

If you can screen out emotion;

if you are a good student of God’s Word;

if you are a careful listener and reflective person who carefully weights what he sees and hears; **Prov 18:13, 17**

if you are a steady person who can’t be flattered;

If you are humble and honest and don’t hear what you want to hear.

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples