

Disciple's Quest

*If you continue in My word, then
you are truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22

September 10, 2017

The Believer's Guide for Life in the Lord's Church Part 6

Main Idea: The careful practice of discernment is essential for the spiritual health and maturity of disciples of Jesus. Love for God's Word, and exposure to Scripture through personal study and accurate Bible exposition are the keys to being able to discern well.

Outline:

Three steps for practicing biblical spiritual discernment

- 1) Rightly esteem God's Word
- 2) Don't despise the Word when taught, but do examine everything carefully. 2 Guidelines:
 - a) You must begin with the right regard (love) for God's Word
 - b) Remember that the call to discern and prove is not license to be needlessly skeptical disagreeable
- 3) Take action!
 - a) If it squares with the Scriptures, hold the teaching fast!
 - b) If it proves to be evil, reject it.

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

1) How can Believers today be guilty of treating the faithful preaching/teaching of God's Word with contempt?

2) According to the message, being Biblically informed and growing in maturity is necessary for the practice of discernment. What spiritual disciplines enable our growth and prepare us to discern?

3) According to the message, how did the gift of prophecy prior to the completion of the canon of Scripture differ from prophecy today?

Why do we no longer need prophets to deliver new revelation directly from God?

4) What does it mean to “hold fast” God’s Word?

Select helpful resources:

Benware, Paul N. *Understanding End Times*. Moody: Chicago, 1995, 2006.

Hiebert, D. Edmund. *1st & 2nd Thessalonians*. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 1996.

MacArthur, John F. *1st & 2nd Thessalonians The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*. Chicago: Moody, 2002.

Thomas, Robert L., Ralph Earle, and D. Edmund Hiebert. *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary. 1st & 2nd Thessalonians, 1st & 2nd Timothy, Titus*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1996.