

## Discernment a Key to Navigation

### I.

We need keen “Discernment” to help us navigate the National Evangelical issues of our day. Issues such as End-times rhetoric, Divine mandate politics, White supremacy & Christian nationalism, C.R.T., D.E.I., A.I., Voter Regulations, Immigration & Taxation policies, Foreign wars, Women’s health, etc. are complicated.

To Discern is to approve, to analyze, to recognize

**Hebrews 5(14)** <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. *Hebrews 5:14 | NASB1995*

We must **filter** what we **expose** ourselves to to develop critical thinking skills.

*Luke 8(16-18)* <sup>16</sup> “Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. <sup>17</sup> “For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup> “So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.”

*Luke 8:16-18 | NASB1995*

Therefore, take heed of how you hear.

*Luke 8:18a | NKJV*

To Heed (Strong #991) - to look, to behold, to beware, to perceive, to regard, to see.

You can’t listen to the radio, cable TV, & social media multiple hours a day & not be **exposed** to **dark** views along with the news (Views are not necessarily accurate news).

*Matthew 6(22-23)* <sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! *Matthew 6:22-23 | NASB1995*

## II.

The **light** in man's thinking can be **darkness**.

*Proverbs 14(12)* <sup>12</sup> There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

*Proverbs 14:12* | NASB1995

*Proverbs 16(2)* <sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives. *Proverbs 16:2* | NASB1995

*Isaiah 5(20-21)* Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! <sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight! *Isaiah 5:20-21* | NASB1995

“The end justifies the means” philosophy is what the communists (China & Russia) have embraced from their inception & are examples of great darkness.

Conspiracy theories (Qanon, FBI, Deep State, Antifa, Compart mentalism, & etc.) of all sorts are other examples of how great the darkness can be.

Dark actions have caused **truth** to stumble in our streets & turned back **justice**.

*Isaiah 59(13-15)*

Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words.<sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. <sup>15</sup> Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the Lord saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. *Isaiah 59:13-15* | NASB1995

*Isaiah 59(13-15)* has timely application right here in America.

Transgressing and denying the Lord ( *setting aside the beatitudes* ), And turning away from our God ( *His kingdom of love* ), Speaking oppression ( *not equality & truth* ) and revolt ( *taking our country back & civil war rhetoric* ), Conceiving ( *ways to stay in power* ) in and uttering from the heart ( *stop the steal of the 2020 election* ) lying words. <sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back ( *supporting lies, character assassination* ), And righteousness ( *telling the truth about 1-6-21 insurrection where over 700 people to date were convicted* ) stands far away; For truth has

stumbled ( supporting the big lie ) in the street, And uprightness cannot enter.<sup>15</sup>  
Yes, truth is lacking ( *cable TV stations won't even carry congressional by  
partisan public hearings* ), And he who turns aside from evil ( *loyalty to a person  
over righteousness & public oaths* ) makes himself prey ( *to be challenged in  
primary elections & death threats* ). Now the Lord saw, And it was displeasing in  
His sight that there was no justice.

*Psalms 11(3)* <sup>3</sup> If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?  
*Psalms 11:3* | NASB1995

III.

Below are seven **practices** we must engage in to increase our “**discernment**  
senses”?

A. **Beware** (be careful) of **false** preachers and **lawless** people.

*Matthew 7(15-23)* <sup>15</sup> “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s  
clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> “You will know them by their fruits.  
Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? <sup>17</sup> “So  
every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> “A good tree  
cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> “Every tree that  
does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> “So then, you will  
know them by their fruits. <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will  
enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in  
heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not  
prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name  
perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you;  
depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’  
*Matthew 7:15-23* | NASB1995

B. **Encourage** people in Christ.

*Philippians 2(1-3)*. Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is  
any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and  
compassion, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the  
same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or  
empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important  
than yourselves; *Philippians 2:1-3* | NASB1995

C. **Focus** your mind on **positive** things.

*Philippians 4(8)* <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell (think & weigh; meditate) on these things. *Philippians 4:8* | NASB1995

D. **Love** one another as **Christ** has loved you.

*1 John 4(7-8)* <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. *1 John 4:7-8* | NASB1995

*John 15(12)* <sup>12</sup> “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. *John 15:12* | NASB1995

E. **Know** that we will experience some **persecution** if we follow Jesus.

*Matthew 5(43-44)* <sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, *Matthew 5:43-44* | NASB1995

*John 15(20)* <sup>20</sup> “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. *John 15:20* | NASB1995

F. **Take** every thought **captive** to the **obedience** of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 10(3-5)* <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. *2 Corinthians 10:3-5* | NASB1995

G. **Keep** Jesus Christ **first place** in your life and **listen** to the Holy Spirit.

*John 14(6)* <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. *John 14:6* | NASB1995

*John 16(13)* <sup>13</sup> “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Doing the above practices will greatly increase our “Discernment Senses” so we can effectively navigate these perilous times.

*Rhema Christian Center  
John “Skip” Jones, Prophet  
Saturday & Sunday, February 3 & 4, 2024  
9:30 a.m.*