



MESSAGE/SERIES:

The Disappearance of Discernment *Mini Series*

(Part 3) Discernment Is Lived Out in Systematic Study

DATE: September 15, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)
1 Corinthians 1:25-28, Ephesians 2:1-10, Hebrews 5:14, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, 1 John 4:1-6, Acts 17:10-14, Romans 2:18, 12:2, Hebrews 6:12, Proverbs 22:29, Hebrews 2:1-4, 5:10, 11-14, 10:24-25, 1 Kings 3:9-12, Psalms 1:1-2, 7, Matthew 7:15, 26:41 Acts 20:20-30, Revelations 2:2, Ephesians 4:11-12, Deuteronomy 6:6, Philipians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:15-26, Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 12:10

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[ACTS 17:10-14]

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.

[1 THESSALONIANS 5:15-26]

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ **Do not quench the Spirit.** ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but **test everything; hold fast what is good.** ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Th 5:15–26.

[REVELATIONS 2:2]

² “ I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but **have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.**”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 2:2.

Discernment- “The divinely given ability to distinguish God’s thoughts and ways from all others...”

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

“**ACTS 17:10–12.** The missionaries were on the road again. In the cover of darkness they continued the fifty miles west to Berea. Much to their delight, they found a synagogue. Sneaking off to Berea had solid precedent in the Roman world. Cicero (106–43 b.c.) had written that Roman authorities were so unpopular in Thessalonica that when he visited that city on government business he sometimes found it necessary to head off to Berea to escape the heat. Perhaps Paul had the same thing in mind. Hang out for awhile in Berea; when things died down, go back inside the beltway to continue his witness.”

Kenneth O. Gangel, *Acts*, vol. 5, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 286.

1 Thess. 5:20/**Prophecy**) “*propheteia* (προφητεία, 4394) signifies “the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God” (*pro*, “forth,” *phemi*, “to speak”: see prophet); in the NT it is used (a) of the gift, e.g., Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; 13:2; (b) either of the exercise of the gift or of that which is “prophesied,” e.g., Matt. 13:14; 1 Cor. 13:8; 14:6, 22 and 1 Thess. 5:20, “prophesying (s)”; 1 Tim. 1:18; 4:14; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Rev. 1:3; 11:6; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18, 19.¶

“Though much of OT prophecy was purely predictive, see Micah 5:2, e.g., and cf. John 11:51, prophecy is not necessarily, nor even primarily, fore-telling. It is the declaration of that which cannot be known by natural means, Matt. 26:68, it is the forth-telling of the will of God, whether with reference to the past, the present, or the future, see Gen. 20:7; Deut. 18:18; Rev. 10:11; 11:3....

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 492.

“What is systematic theology? Many different definitions have been given, but for the purposes of this book the following definition will be used: *Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, “What does the whole Bible teach us today?” about any given topic.*

This definition indicates that systematic theology involves collecting and understanding all the relevant passages in the Bible on various topics and then summarizing their teachings clearly so that we know what to believe about each topic.”

Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 21.

“Quite clearly, **the gift of discerning of spirits** is the capacity to discern the source of a spiritual manifestation whether it is the Holy Spirit, an evil spirit, or merely the human spirit.”

Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology* (Los Angeles, CA: L.I.F.E. Bible College, 1983), 337.

“Whereas **most believers have to test the spirits** to see if something is demonic or not, someone who has **the gift of discernment of spirits** will be able to identify immediately whether someone else has a demonic problem or not. Believers with this gift can know right away. Those who do not have this gift must test the spirits.”

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Messianic Bible Study Collection*, vol. 71 (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 1983), 21.

Apostle in its Wider Sense- “The word has also a wider reference. In Acts 14:4, 14, it is used of Barnabas as well as of Paul; in Rom. 16:7 of Andronicus and Junias. In 2 Cor. 8:23 (rv, margin) two unnamed brethren are called ‘apostles of the churches’; in Phil. 2:25 (rv, margin) Epaphroditus is referred to as ‘your apostle.’ It is used in 1 Thess. 2:6 of Paul, Silas and Timothy, **to define their relation to Christ.**”*

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 31.

THE CHURCH HAS FAILED TO SYSTEMATICALLY STUDY THE
WORD... So that we may may be set apart...

OUTLINE:

- I. **Discernment Requires a Systematic Approach** (Acts 17:10-14, 1 Thess. 5:15-26)
 - A. *What does the Bible say as a whole*
 - B. *Systematic Study is responsive (when things are in question)*
 1. *Scripture does not contradict itself*
 - a) *When something is unclear we are to search for the teaching of Scripture*
 - (1) *Study in context (CSI Class starting October 6th 6pm 3rd floor)*
 - (a) *Passage*
 - (b) *Immediate context*
 - (c) *Rest of larger connected section*
 - (d) *Rest of book*
 - (e) *Rest of bible*
 - b) *As it relates to the whole of Scripture (Scripture builds upon Scripture)*

c) *All scripture has one author (it is total agreement because all the books have the same source)- 2 Timothy 3:16*

(1) *“All scriptures is breathed out by God...”*

(a) *Author in total*

C. *Systematic study is preventative ensures false doctrine is identified (before it takes root)*

II. Discernment Will Test Leaders (Rev. 2:2)

A. *Discernment comes forward and is useful in identifying men who are not sent of God but are false prophets/false teachers*

III. Discernment is Gifted to Some in Abundance (1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (v10))

A. *Discernment is given to the church as a Spiritual Gift as well*

1. *All gifts are given and directed by the Spirit of God*

2. *All gifts are given and are beneficial as they come together to serve Him in the whole body*

3. *Here we see the Gift of Discerning Spirits is paired with Prophecy (or preaching/teaching) as this keeps the speaking pure and without error*

4. *This gift is an extra abundance and sensitivity to see the difference between truth and error (What is of God and what is of Satan/Flesh)*

B. *All Saints have discernment and it is accentuated by the daily Study of God's word*

C. *People with the Gift of Discerning of Spirits also are affected by the dedication to God's word*

