



## REVIEW

### 1) THE CALL TO SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

While we read several verses in the book of Philippians, we highlighted the phrase, “*That ye may approve things that are excellent,*” in chapter 1 and verse 10. We found that while sinless perfection will not be realized until we are given our glorified bodies, we have a responsibility to pursue spiritual perfection – allowing the perfect will of God to become a reality in all areas of our life. We said that Spiritual discernment is the quality control that we must implement into our lives in order for us to bring honor to God by best reflecting Him. The Christian life is a **RELATIONSHIP**, not a **RELIGION**.

### 2) THE CHALLENGE OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

When then looked at 1 John 2:17, where we highlighted the phrase, “*...but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever...*” We found that there is a spiritual war raging right now to control what you think and how you feel about things in life – your worldview. The worldview of a child of God should be different from the viewpoint of the world, **BUT IT ISN'T EASY**.

The primary reason that being spiritually discerning is so complicated is due to the fact that we are often forced to fight on a multitude of fronts. We struggle with our **SELF**, with **SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES**, and with **SOCIETY**. There's a low view of **SCRIPTURE** and a low view of **GOD** (holiness) which leads to a low view of **PERSONAL HOLINESS**.

### 3) THE CHOICE OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

We highlighted the phrase, “*O how love I thy law...*” found in Psalm 119:97.

We said that the goal of spiritual discernment is not to discover the **WILL** of God; it's to discover the **TRUTH** of God. The will of God will then flow out of the truth of God.

A) The **ACQUISITION** of truth

B) The **APPLICATION** of truth

C) The **APPROVAL**

Spiritual discernment is being able to separate truth from error, right from wrong.

## **THE COURTROOM OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**

1 Timothy 6:17-21 says, *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. O Timothy, **keep that which is committed to thy trust**, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.”*

The rapture of the church is the next large event on God's calendar. I say the next large event, because God is at work right now.

He's calling the lost to salvation, and Philippians 1:6 tells us that He began a good work in us when we trusted Him as our Saviour and He will continue that work, *“...until the day of Jesus Christ,”* which is a reference to the rapture - the coming of Jesus Christ.

And 1 Thessalonians 5:2 tells us that, *“...the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”*

At any moment, the door to heaven could open, the trump of God will sound, and we'll hear the words, *“Come up hither...”*

Revelation 4:1 says, *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither...”*

Following that time, will be a period of 7 years. We call that the Great Tribulation. When you study that out you will find that it is the closest thing to experiencing Hell on earth. While the wrath of God is being poured out on this earth, the Judgment seat of Christ, or Bema Seat judgment, will take place.

Acts 17:30-31 says, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”*

We'll come back to that it just a moment.

After this time where the righteous will be judged, the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place. We then will return with Christ at the end of that 7-year period, where Christ will take control of this world and establish His kingdom on earth. A reign that will last for 1,000 years – we call that the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:10 says, *“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*

Revelation 20:6 says, *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”*

During the millennium, we, the children of God, will be assigned certain responsibilities. What will that look like? Honestly, I have no idea, but it does appear that the responsibility that I will be assigned during the millennium is determined by the choices that I make today.

The rewards that I receive at the judgment seat of Christ and the responsibility that I receive during the millennium is determined by how I exercised spiritual discernment in this world. And, for most, it will be a terrible moment, when we see and when we hear. That's why on two different occasions Jesus says that He will have to wipe away our tears.

2 Corinthians 5:10 says, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 says, *“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*

#### A) The **APPEARANCE**

Hebrews 9:27 says, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

#### B) The **ASSEMBLY**

Hebrews 12:1 says, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”*

### C) The **ACCOUNT** or the **ANALYSIS**

To *appear* means “to be revealed.”

The word *analysis* means “a detailed examination of anything complex in order to understand its nature or to determine its essential features.”

Romans 14:12 says, *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

1 Peter 4:5 says, *“Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”*

### D) The **AWARDS**

#### (1) A **SOUL-WINNER’S** crown

1 Thessalonians 2:19 says, *“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”*

#### (2) A **SUFFERING** crown

James 1:12 says, *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*

Revelation 2:10 says, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

#### (3) A **SERVANT’S** crown

1 Peter 5:1-4 says, *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”*

#### (4) A **SOLD-OUT** crown

2 Timothy 4:7-8 says, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the*

*Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

(5) A **SELF-DISCIPLINE** crown

*1 Corinthians 9:25-27 says, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

*Revelation 4:10-11 says, "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." om the things that are most important – the things of God. Proverbs 20:6 says, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"*