WE HONOR, LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU!
THESE ARE DAYS AND TIME IN WHICH WE NEED TO KNOW:

• What Is Fake & What Is Real?
• What Is False & What Is True?
• What Is Man-Made & What Is From God?
We Must Realize That Things Are Not Always As They Seem

• (John 7:24 NIV)  Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• Jesus Tells Us Plainly and Clearly To Watch Out For Deception

• He Spoke About False Prophets And Their Deception

• Matthew 7:15 (NIV) (15) "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• Matthew 24:4-5 (NIV) (4) Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. (5) For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

• Matthew 24:11 (NIV) (11) and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

• Jesus Said: “Watch Out! Deceivers Will Come”
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• Deception = A Primary Indicator Of The Last Days

• Deception Will Be An End Times Attempt To Persuade Every People Group To Disregard God’s Word And Truth

• Deceive Means To Wander Off Course – People Moving Away From The Positions Of Morality And Truth That They Once Held.
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• To Be Deceived Is To Move Away From A Solid Position To One That Is Unreliable Unpredictable And Dangerous

• When We See Deception Growing And Gaining Ground In Our Culture -- Then We Know That The Lord’s Return Is At Hand

• This Is A Picture Of Our Age
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• The Enemy Always Asks: Did God Really Say??

• If We Don’t Value Truth – We Will End Up Settling For A Lie

• Isaiah 5:20 (NIV) (20) Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

• JESUS SAYS: “WATCH OUT!”
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• Paul Calls The Deceivers “Savage Wolves” InActs 20:29-30
  • They Will Distort Truth & Draw People Away

• 1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV) (1) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

• Peter Says: Deceivers Introduce Destructive Heresies 2 Peter 2:1-3
  • Their Motivation Is Greed
  • Their Sad Future Is Swift Destruction & Condemnation
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• *We Must Be Careful To Test The Prophets*

• *We Must Reject All Falsehood*
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• Ezekiel 13 – False Prophets Are Condemned By A True Prophet
• READ: Ezekiel 13:2-12
• These Calling Themselves Prophets -- Are Not Prophets At All
• They Are Prophesying By Imagination
• They Are Following Their Own Spirit (Not God’s Sprit)
• They Have Actually Seen Nothing
• What They Have Are False Visions & Divinations
• They Say “The Lord Says... “ When He Hasn’t Spoken
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• **Therefore:** (You False Prophets) I Am Against You

• My Hand Is Against You

• **They Say “Peace” When There Is No Peace**

• They Tell You What You Want To Hear

• **They Say “The Lord Says” When He Hasn’t Spoken**

• They Are Hiding Issues That Need To Be Exposed -- Whitewashing The Issues
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• **Why Do People Fall For Deception & Deceit:**

• **The Account Of Joshua And The Gibeonite Deception –**

• **READ: Joshua 9:3-15**

• **The Gibeonites Pull The Wool Over The Eyes Of The Israelites** (9:3-6).

• **Neither Joshua Nor The Men Of Israel Asked The Mind Of God Before Entering Into This Alliance**

• **They Were Taken In and Established A Peace Treaty—only To Learn That The Gibeonites Were Near Neighbors** (v. 14-17).
Why Do We Become Deceived and Give Into Deception?

** We Trust In What We Are Told Without Checking It Out
** We Don’t Know Because We Don’t Want To Know

- Discernment Is About Maturity & Training

- (Heb 5:14 NIV) But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
DISCERNING DECEPTION

At Times We Get Deceived Because Of:

**Our Own Apathy

**Our Eyes And Ears Being Closed

**Our Lack Of True Relationship With Christ
  • No Prayer – Discernment -- Listening -- Study

**People Fall For Fakes When They Don’t Know The Real

**We Must Investigate What We Are Told
In These Days Of Deception We Must:

**Be Prepared To Give An Answer**

**Make A Godly Decision Of Direction  (As For Me And My House)**

**Not Waver**

**Make A Full Commitment**
In Revelation 2 Jesus Commends The Ephesian Church:

• Revelation 2:2-3 (NIV) (2) I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. (3) You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.
Jesus Commended The Ephesus Church In Revelation Saying:

• You Don’t Tolerate False Teaching

• You Have Tested Those Who Claim To Be Apostles

• You Have Persevered

• You Have Endured Hardships

• You Have Not Grown Weary
DISCERNING DECEPTION

• *We Must Decide That Even If Things Continue To Spiral Downward* --*Truth Is God's Truth Belongs To God*

• *We Must Have Our Feet Planted Solidly On The Rock Of Christ*

• *We Must Have His Word Hidden In Our Heart*

• *We Must Be Solid In Our Commitment & Not Move From It*

• *When Others are Deceived* --*May We Be Strong In The Truth*