

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

EXTRA EDITION

## Which Way?

When Jesus was leaving to return to His Father He prayed that we might “be one.” It is obviously very important that we “be one” in that He mentioned it several times.

**John 17:11**, “That they may be **one**, as we are.”

**John 17:21**, “That they all may be **one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one** in us.”

**John 17:22**, “That they may be **one**, even as we are **one**.”

**John 17:23**, “That they may be made perfect in **one**.”



### Why Are Good Men Leading In Different Directions?

#### I. The Times In Which We Live.

For nearly two-thousand years we never had this problem; however, the Bible is very plain that we would face this situation at the end of the local church age.

The disciples asked the Lord, “what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3). We read in

**Matthew 24:4,5,**

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name...and shall deceive many.”*

#### Movements And Technology

For nearly two-thousand years pastors in local churches instructed their congregations from the Word of God. It has only been in recent years that we have developed our movements and it has only been in recent years that we have had the technology to promote our different movements around the entire world. Two thousand years ago, and even two hundred years ago, leaders had no worldwide influence like we do today.



#### First Corinthians 14:10

*“There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.”*

(suggesting a meaning or message)

#### Luke 8:18

*“Take heed therefore how ye hear.”*

#### Isaiah 55:3

*“Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live.”*

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Today's technology has given leaders of movements a world-wide outreach in which Christians around the world are influenced concerning what to believe and how to behave.

### A Lack of Discernment

Our need today is to have *"an understanding heart to...discern between good and bad"* (First Kings 3:9).

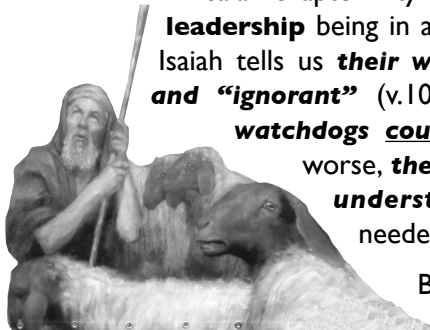
#### "The People Could Not Discern"

We read in Ezekiel's day that **"the people could not discern"** (Ezekiel 3:13). They could not discern **"the difference between the holy and profane,** and were unable to **"discern between the unclean and the clean"** (Ezekiel 44:23).

In the days of Malachi God's people were warned that they needed to **"return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not"** (Malachi 3:18).

#### "The Shepherds Could Not Understand"

In Isaiah chapter fifty-six we read about God's **leadership** being in an inexcusable condition. Isaiah tells us **their watchmen were "blind" and "ignorant"** (v.10). We also read **their watchdogs could not bark,** and even worse, **their shepherds could not understand** the things they needed to understand.



Blind and ignorant watchmen are of no value to God or man.

Watchdogs that **"cannot bark"** are useless; however, shepherds that **"cannot understand"** are even a greater problem. We can quickly spot a dog that can't bark or a watchman that is blind; but, the shepherd that **"cannot understand"** looks like any other shepherd. The sheep are in serious trouble when their shepherd cannot understand. The Bible says...

#### Isaiah 5:13,

*"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst."*

As the leaders of God's sheep how do we possibly get into the place where we **cannot** understand?

Article

[The Difference Between The Church And The Movement](#)

Article

[Majesty Music Cites Spurgeon to Defend Use of Contemporary Praise Music](#)

Article

[THE BOOK or The Commentaries?](#)

Audio

[Why Church Members Act The Way They Do?](#)





## 2. Our Refusal To Study God’s Word Leads To A Lack of Discernment.

Discernment is available to every Christian; however, discernment is conditional. **Consider God’s “ifs.”** If is a small word that occurs 1,595 times in 1,420 verses in the Bible. The word “**then**” occurs 2,168 times in 2,115 verses in the Scriptures.

### Proverbs 2:1-9 says,

“My son, **if** thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, **if** thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; **If** thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; **Then** shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. **Then** shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.”

Let us look at the verses above. Perhaps, we should say let us let the verses above look at us.

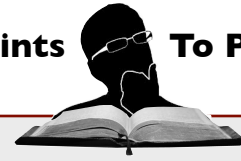
God promises we will understand...**if**...

1. **IF we will**, “receive” HIS “words.”
2. **IF we will**, “hide HIS commandments” in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).
3. **IF we will**, “incline” our “ear unto wisdom.”
4. **IF we will**, “cry after knowledge.”
5. **IF we will**, “seekest her as silver.”
6. **IF we will**, “searchest for her as for hid treasures.”
7. **Then shalt we**, “understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”
8. **Then shalt we**, “understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.”

**Twice, God said**, “**then** thou shalt understand.” The only reason we cannot understand is we do not have the discernment to understand. The only reason we do not have discernment is because we reject God’s Word.

We spend a few minutes reading words written by some human being who writes commentaries or articles like the one you are reading now while refusing to study the Word. “**Much study is a weariness of the flesh**” (Ecclesiastes 12:12) therefore, we let someone else get weary, and then skim through his writings. We especially like the writers who tell us what we think we already know.

## Points To Ponder



### Seeker Sensitive???

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Provide various programs that will attract all kinds of people

**Saviour Sensitive,**

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32).

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Use marketing principles to “sell” the church program to the masses.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Looking for the Spirit of God to do His work of conviction in the hearts of people. (John 16:8-11).

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Give the people what they want.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Give the people what they need.

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Purpose driven.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Holy Spirit led.

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Seekers are drawn by convenience.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Seekers are drawn by conviction. (John 16:8).

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Looking to make sinners comfortable.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Looking to the Comforter to convict sin. (John 16:8).

**Seeker Sensitive,**

Main concern numerical growth.

**Saviour Sensitive,**

Main concern spiritual growth. (First Corinthians 4:2).



## Receive His Words

**Proverbs 2:1** says, “receive *My* words.”

The Hebrew word translated “receive” here is *laqach*. It has been used throughout the Old Testament concerning marriage. Marriage is a lifelong commitment. It is much more than a casual reading of someone’s book about weddings. **Discernment** comes not to those who do only a casual reading of someone’s commentary or article about the issues of our day.

## Hide His Commandments

**Proverbs 2:1** says, “hide my commandments with thee.”

**Discernment** comes to us only if we determine to hide the commandments of the Lord in our heart rather than simply putting the opinions of some human writer in our head.

We will “hide” His commandments in our hearts or we will face the judgment of God for not doing so. Consider the following Scripture.

### Deuteronomy 31:17,18,

*“Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? And I will surely hide my face in that day.”*

Are we not living in a day when “many evils and troubles befall us.” **We need to ask** “Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?” God is no respecter of persons. Since we know He hid His face from His own people in the Old Testament let us not think He will go on blessing us fundamentalists if we refuse to “study to show ourselves approved unto God.”

## None So Blind

We must choose to follow the instructions in Proverbs chapter two or we will find the following Scripture to be applicable.

### Second Peter 1:8

*“He that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off.”*

## Why The Blind Man Was Healed

In Luke 18:14, we have the story of a blind man who came to Christ. The Lord asked him what he wanted. His answer was that he might “receive” his sight. The Lord granted his request for several reasons. (See the insert at the right).

## Why The Blind Man Received His Sight



**The story begins with a man begging at the side of the road.**

*Verse 35,*

*“And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging.”*

**He asked what was happening.**

*Verses 36,37,*

*“And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.”*

**He would not allow anyone to stop him from receiving what he wanted.**

*Verses 38,39,*

*“And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.”*

**His earnest desire caught the attention of the Lord.**

*Verses 40, 41,*

*“And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?”*

**His request was plain.**

*Verse 41,*

*“And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.”*

**His request was granted.**

*Verse 42,*

*“And Jesus said receive thy sight...”*

**Everything changed.**

*Verse 43,*

*“And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God.”*

**His life now influenced others for the Lord.**

*Verse 43,*

*“All the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.”*





## The “Essentials Unity” Nonsense

It is obvious that we do not have the discernment to understand who is right concerning all of the issues of our day therefore, rather than follow the instructions given in Proverbs chapter two, many fundamentalists have bought into the “essentials unity” nonsense. “Essentials Unity” is a cute little slogan adapted by compromisers. It goes as follows,

1. In essentials unity.
2. In non-essentials liberty.
3. In all things love.

### According to the dictionary, Essential means,

*“Something that is necessary and of extreme importance.”*

### Non-essential means,

*“Something that is unnecessary and not important, considered as optional.”*

Anyone who considers himself a fundamentalist and assumes that any part of the Word of God is unnecessary, not important, or optional is a spiritually illiterate fundamentalist or an outright compromiser. I can’t imagine anyone having the audacity to attempt to decide what part of the Word of God is important and what is optional.

### In non-essentials liberty?

**Here is the real issue.** The dictionary definition of liberty is “freedom from restrictions imposed by an authority on ones’ behaviour or way of life.” The carnal Christian says, “don’t impose any restrictions on me regarding modesty, music, or men I should separate from, or anything else. I want liberty! I do not want any authority telling me what to do!” [For some excellent information concerning Essentials Unity click here.](#)

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

(Second Timothy 2:15)

## Let Us Face The Facts

We have many men leading in many directions.

### Our Problem Is A Lack of Discernment

- **Proverbs 2:6,** “Then shalt thou understand.”
- **Proverbs 2:9,** “Then shalt thou understand.”

### The problem is obvious, (Proverbs 2)

1. **Someone is not receiving the Lord’s words.**
  - i. **V.1,** “if thou wilt receive my words.”
2. **Someone is ignoring God’s commandments.**
  - ii. **V.1,** “hide my commandments with thee.”
3. **Someone is not receiving wisdom.**
  - ii. **V.2,** “incline thine ear unto wisdom.”
4. **Someone is not applying his heart.**
  - ii. **V.3,** “apply thine heart to understanding.”
5. **Someone is not crying after knowledge.**
  - ii. **V.3,** “if thou criest after knowledge.”
6. **Someone is not seeking and searching.**
  - ii. **V.4,** “seek her as silver”
  - iii. **V.4,** “searchest for her as for hid treasures”

**The promise is clear that when we will decide to get serious about God’s Word we will have the understanding we need.**

### Proverbs 2:9,

*“Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.”*

