

# 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).



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Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Monday, June 8,

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**“WISDOM”  
“KNOWLEDGE”**



**“UNDERSTANDING”**

“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”  
(Proverbs 2:6)

## Choosing Understanding or Choosing Ignorance

**Romans 1:13,**

“I would not have you ignorant, brethren.”

**Romans 11:25,**

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant.”

**First Corinthians 10:1,**

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant.”

**Second Corinthians 1:8,**

“For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant.”

**First Thessalonians 4:13,**

“I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren.”

**Second Peter 3:8,**

“But, beloved, be not ignorant.”

**First Corinthians 12:1,**

“I would not have you ignorant.”

## No Choice But To Choose

**First Corinthians 14:38,**

“But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”

**Second Peter 3:8,**

“But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”



**Proverbs 2:2,**

“Incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.”

**Proverbs 2:3,**

“Cries after knowledge.”

**Proverbs 2:3,**

“Lift up thy voice for understanding.”

**Proverbs 2:6,**

“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”

**Proverbs 2:5,**

“Understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

**Proverbs 2:9-10,**

“Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul.”

The word “wisdom” occurs fifty-three times in the Book of Proverbs, the word “knowledge” is found forty-one times, and the words “understanding,” or “understand” are recorded sixty-two times.

## “Set Thine Heart”

Understanding only comes to those who will “set their heart” to understand.

**Daniel 10:12,**

“From the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.”

## **“From The First Day.”**

Daniel made a conscious decision to begin the process of understanding. There was a day when he “set his heart to understand.”

## **He Also Set His Heart To “Chasten” Himself**

The word “chasten” has been translated “humble” eleven times. It is used in Psalm 35:13 where we read the Psalmist said, “I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.”

## **“If And “Then”**

### **Proverbs 2,**

- **Verse 1,** “If thou wilt receive my words.”
- **Verse 3,** “If thou criest after knowledge.”
- **Verse 4,** “If thou seekest her.”
- **Verse 5,** “Then thou shalt understand.”

## **Getting Started**

We have seen there was a specific day when Daniel set his heart to understand. Should you determine to do that, we will give some suggestions as to how to learn to discern the things of God.

## **Identify A Topic Needing Attention**

1. Begin by selecting an area of interest or a need in your life where you might begin your process to learn the will of God.
2. Set a time and a place to study each day.
3. Pray for direction from God.

### **Psalm 119:66,**

“Teach me good judgment and knowledge.”

## **A Personal Example**

As a pastor I am commanded to “keep that which is committed to thy trust” (First Timothy 6:20). It is a very serious thing to me that I have been “allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel” (First Thessalonians 2:4).

## **Two Issues I Am Charge With**

We have many issues facing us in this age of apostasy; however, in my estimation the most serious issues we face are the subjects of salvation and separation.

I will give an answer to the Lord concerning what I teach about these subjects therefore before teaching anything about them I determined I had better seek the

mind of God on these issues. I determined to “set my heart to understand” this issue. I have invested hundreds of hours in determining the truth about these subjects and I am still working on it. Repentance is a major subject in the Word of God.

## **Context, Context, Context**

It is very important that we do not take verses out of context to attempt to prove our preconceived ideas concerning a subject. We have seen that Daniel “chastened (Translated “humbled” eleven times) himself to understand.”

## **Repentance And Salvation**

In my attempt to know the mind of God concerning repentance, I found there are several areas of repentance ranging from Israel repenting as a nation to individuals repenting. I found some specific verses dealing with repentance and salvation such as, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (Second Corinthians 7:10), “God...granted repentance unto life” (Acts 11:18), and “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

## **Repentance And Christians**

### **Second Timothy 2:25-26,**

“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

The context of the verse above is found in verse eighteen, where we read Paul was referring to those, “Who concerning the truth have erred.”

Three times the phrase “have erred” is used concerning Christians who,

- “Have erred from the faith” (First Timothy 6:10).
- “Have erred concerning the faith” (First Timothy 6:21).
- “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already” (Second Timothy 2:18).

1. Begin by selecting an area of interest or a need.
2. Set a time and a place to study each day.
3. Pray for direction from God.
4. Set your heart to be approved unto God.

### **Second Timothy 2:15,**

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.”*

It is a temptation to be more concerned about being approved unto our peers than approved unto God. God knows our heart. If we are more concerned about what our friends think than what God knows we are double-minded. James 1:7 plainly says, *“Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”*

## **Three Aspects of Studying The Word of God**

### **OBSERVATION**

*(Knowledge)*

When studying a portion of Scripture we should read it several times carefully to obtain information.

### **INTERPRETATION**

*(Understanding)*

Next, determine the meaning of the portion of Scripture you are studying. Determining what is meant by each word and the purpose for each action that is recorded.

### **APPLICATION**

*(Wisdom)*

Herein lies the purpose for the study. The Bible says, *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.”* (Proverbs 4:7).

## **The Basic Requirements For Spiritual Understanding**

### **I. A Contrite Spirit**

#### **Isaiah 66:2,**

*“To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”*

Notice the two areas of concern:

1. *“Poor in spirit.”*
2. *“Trembleth at my word.”*

### **“Poor In Spirit.”**

When Jesus began His earthly ministry with His disciples the first thing He taught them was *“Blessed are the poor in spirit”* (Matthew 5:3). The Greek word translated *“poor”* in this verse is *“ptochos.”* It has been translated *“beggar”* twice in Luke chapter sixteen. It refers to someone who is completely bankrupt having nothing to offer.

### **“Trembleth At My Word.”**

The context of Isaiah 66:2 has to do with the condition of God’s people at that time. Josiah became king of Judah at the age of eight. His father and grandfather had previously ruled over Judah, and were wicked kings that did evil in the sight of the Lord. They had brought the nation to an all time spiritual low.

As Josiah grew up, he began a project to restore the temple, and as the temple was being cleaned, the high priest found the Law of Moses. Nobody had seen or heard God’s Word for a long time. The priest sent the scroll to the king. Josiah was a young man who *trembled* at God’s Word when he heard it for the first time. Josiah became in a state of extreme concern about the condition of God’s people.

### **God’s Judgment Was Near**

#### **Second Kings 22:17,**

*“Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.”*

### **“But To The King of Judah”**

#### **Second Kings 22:18-19,**

*“But to the king of Judah (Josiah) which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee*

*unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again."*

Because Josiah trembled at the Word of God which was revealing the coming judgment, God withheld the judgment until Josiah's life was over.

1. A Poor In Spirit, Trembling At God's Word.

## **2. Willing To Stand When Hated By Your Brethren.**

### **Isaiah 66:5,**

*"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."*

The Bible speaks of those who "hated knowledge" and even our "brethren" that hate those who "tremble at his word" (Isaiah 66:5).

God offers no cheap discipleship program. In Luke chapter fourteen, the Lord gave three reasons why we cannot be His disciple. He warned His followers to "count the cost."

1. Christ said if family or even our own lives are more important than truth, we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26).
2. If we refuse to bear the cross He gives us to bear, we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:27).
3. If we are not willing to forsake all that we have, we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:33).

Discernment comes from God and He will not give discernment to anyone who is not willing to pay the price to be His disciple.

Therefore, if we want discernment, the first thing we must do is decide if we are willing to pay the price.

### **Beware discernment is very expensive.**

- **Discernment** put Noah and his family against the entire world.
- **Discernment** totally changed the lifestyle of Abraham. Discernment caused Enoch to walk alone.

- **Discernment** caused Joseph to be hated by his brothers, sold as a slave, and spend many years in a dungeon.
- **Discernment** put Moses on the backside of the desert.
- **Discernment** put the three Hebrew children in the furnace.
- **Discernment** caused all of the disciples to be hated,
- **Discernment** caused Paul to be lied about, whipped, imprisoned and forsaken by most Christians.

This is why Christ took His disciples up on the mountain at the beginning of their ministry and explained the true cost of discipleship. He said to be His disciple would taken them on the narrow path and warned them ahead of time that, "few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

### **Luke 15:25,**

*"They hated me without a cause."*

### **First John 3:13,**

*"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."*

## **Count The Cost**

### **Luke 14:28,**

*"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it"*

### **In Luke 9:57-58** we read,

*"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."*

### **In Luke 9:62** we read,

*"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

**Count the cost!** We don't need any more quitters or compromisers joining the ranks.

*"You cannot be Christ's servant if you are not willing to follow him, cross and all. What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to be like him. Do you want to be lifted up? So you shall, but it will be upon a cross."*

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