

GROWING IN DISCERNMENT
#SermonDiscernment
Growing God's Way - Part 6
Dr. Mark Jackson - October 8, 2017
2 Peter 2:1-9

Psalm 119:125 I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand... (NIV)

Hebrews 5:14 Solid food is for mature people who have been trained to know right from wrong. (CEV)

2 Timothy 4:3 For there is going to come a time when people won't listen to the truth but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. (LB)

You Have Spiritual Discernment if...

1. YOU RECOGNIZE FALSE TEACHERS (VS 1-3a)

2 Peter 2:1-3a But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up... (NIV)

- Their INFILTRATION (vs 1a)

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (NASB)

- Their INSTRUCTION (vs 1b)
 1. It is DECEPTIVE - Matt. 7:15
 2. It is DESTRUCTIVE - Acts 20:29
 3. It is DIVISIVE - Rom. 16:17
 4. It is DISBELIEF - 2 John 1:7

- Their INFLUENCE (vs 2-3)

Acts 20:30 Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. (NRSV)

2. YOU REMEMBER GOD'S JUDGEMENT (VS 3b-6)

2 Peter 2:3b-6 ...But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way. ⁴ For God did not spare even the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell, chained in gloomy caves and darkness until the judgment day. ⁵ And he did not spare any of the people who lived in ancient times before the flood... At that time God completely destroyed the whole world of ungodly men with the vast flood. ⁶ Later, he turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into heaps of ashes and blotted them off the face of the earth, making them an example for all the ungodly in the future to look back upon and fear. (LB)

Jude 1:4 ...some godless teachers have wormed their way in among you, saying that after we become Christians we can do just as we like without fear of God's punishment... (LB)

Ezekiel 23:48b ...my judgment will be a warning to others not to follow their wicked example. (NLT)

3. YOU RECEIVED GOD'S DELIVERANCE (VS 5b, 7-9)

2 Peter 2:5b, 7-9 God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah... ⁷ God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ⁸ Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. ⁹ So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. (NLT)

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. (NKJV)

Genesis 19:16 ...for the LORD was merciful to them. (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not chosen to pour out his anger upon us but to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ he died for us so that we can live with him forever... (LB)