

# Hebrews 5:14

## Discern

- dis- apart
- cern- < cernere, to separate
  - to see and identify by noting differences
  - 2 Sm.14:17

# Hebrews 5:14

## Discern

- We must distinguish . . .

GOOD –  
BAD

RIGHT –  
WRONG

TRUE –  
FALSE

SAFE –  
DANGER

- Choice is not between pleasant and unpleasant, popular and unpopular, majority and minority...

# Many great men blundered because of faulty discernment

- Noah
- Lot
- Eli
- David
- Hezekiah

Could it  
happen to  
me?

# I. Objective Good And Evil Exist

# Subjective

- Of, affected by, or produced by the mind...

“Each has right to his own beliefs and practices.”

They make themselves their own god.  
Prov.14:12

1. Gn.3, satan invents situation ethics
2. 1 Sm.15, Saul... The End...
3. Mt.19:9

# Objective

- Right / wrong not based on personal choice

“If God says it is right / wrong, it is.”  
Is.5:20

Some deny good and evil. Gn.2:9;  
Jn.5:29; Ro.3:8

If wrong, change mind to fit truth.  
Col.3:25

I. Objective Good And Evil Exist

II. Danger Of  
Discernment Fog

# 1. Young prophet, 1 K.13

1. Terror does not silence him, 1-5.
2. Temptation does not stop him, 7.
3. Treasure does not sway him, 7-9.
4. Trickery deceives him, 10-19.



1. Young prophet, 1 K.13
2. **Pharisees**, Lk.12:54-56

Lk.20:20-26

Could not distinguish two loyalties:  
earthly and heavenly.

Purpose: catch Jesus in error; cannot  
see their own. 1 Co.11:29

1. Young prophet, 1 K.13
2. Pharisees, Lk.12:54-56
3. **Rich man**, Lk.12

## Deceived by riches

1. **Satisfied**: knew when to leave rat race ... with satisfied soul. Prov.27:7
2. **Smart**: rich farmer ... but does not discern material / spiritual values.
3. **Senseless**: does not distinguish retirement and eternity.

1. Young prophet, 1 K.13
2. Pharisees, Lk.12:54-56
3. **Rich man**, Lk.12

Deceived by riches – rich man ...

1. Planned for time, not eternity.
2. Put money first, God last.
3. Thought he could feed soul on barn storage.
4. Thought he could choose own course.

I. Objective Good And Evil Exist

II. Danger Of Discernment Fog

III. Growing In  
Discernment

# Faith

Abraham, Hb.11:8-10

Moses, Hb.11:24-26

- Right decisions...
  - Faith discerned what is best...
    - Faith: this life is not the end (Hb.11:13-16)

Faith

Word

Hb.5:14

- Discern: ability to evaluate good and evil.
- Word: Hb.4:12
  - Discern; discriminates and passes judgment on thoughts and feelings; exposes; 'it is critical.'

Faith  
Word

## Honesty

1 Co.2:14

1 Co.11:29

Ac.17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Faith  
Word  
Honesty  
Search

Prov.1:2

Prov.2:3 (5)



Faith  
Word  
Honesty  
Search

Prayer

Solomon, 1 K.3:9, 11

Ph.1:9-10