

THE DEARTH OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT
(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

- I. RECOGNIZING the Problem
 - A. The SUBVERSIVE influence of SECULAR philosophies
 - B. The SUBTLE influence of personal BIAS and BACKGROUND
 - C. The VISIBLE evidence of RELIGIOUS confusion

- II. WORKING at our Faith (Matthew 26:41)
 - A. Unconcern about inconsistency in the CHURCH
 - B. Unwillingness to apply ENERGY to THINKING
 - 1. Christian PUBLISHERS do little or no SCREENING
 - 2. Secular SOCIETY influences how we THINK

- III. COMBATING the Confusion (Matthew 7:15)
 - A. Remaining ALERT to FALSE TEACHING
 - 1. EASY when it's OBVIOUS
 - 2. HARDER when it's from a source we think we can TRUST

B. Being WILLING and ABLE to identify heresy

IV. CLARIFYING the Issues (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

A. Learn to fight the RIGHT BATTLES

B. Learn to use the RIGHT MEANS

V. CONTENDING for the Truth (Jude 3-4)

A. Defending right DOCTRINE (2 Tim. 1:13)

B. Exercising clear THINKING (Phil. 4:8-9)

C. Practicing careful EXPRESSION (2 Tim. 2:2)