

10th Annual Ladies Retreat

# Days That Demand Discernment

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands."

*Proverbs 14:1 NASB*

Speaker: **Scott Maxwell**

**September 6-7, 2014**  
Saturday 9:15am - Sunday 12:00pm



# Retreat Schedule

## *Saturday*

### **Session One**

9:30-12:00

Gainey Room

### **Lunch**

12:00-1:00

Hearth Room

### **Session Two**

1:30-3:00

Gainey Room

### **Free Time & Check In**

3:00-6:00

### **Dinner**

6:00-7:00

Gainey Room

### **Session Three**

7:15-9:00

Gainey Room

## *Sunday*

### **Breakfast on your own (continental)**

7:00-9:00

Hearth Room

### **Session Four**

9:15 -11:30

Gainey Room

### **Check out**

11:30-12:00

**Schedule**

# Message 1 - Days That Demand Discernment

## Ephesians 5:15-16

“Days That Demand Discernment”

*Saturday Morning, September 6, 2014*

**INTRODUCTION:** What do you think about these days we live in?

**I. Do you believe these days are evil, Ephesians 5:16b?**

**II. How should you walk through evil days, Ephesians 5:15-16a?**

1. *Walk carefully, Ephesians 5:15a.*

2. *Walk wisely, Ephesians 5:15b.*

3. *Walk effectively, Ephesians 5:16a.*



# Message 2 - Some Basics on Wisdom

## Miscellaneous Scriptures

“Days That Demand Discernment”

*Saturday Afternoon, September 6, 2014*

### I. The rough crowd around wisdom in these evil days, Proverbs 1:22.

Do you know:

➔ The naive.

➔ The fool.

➔ The scoffer.

### II. An introduction to wisdom from Proverbs.

1. What wisdom is not.

2. What wisdom is.

**3. Do you know:**

- ➔ **Wisdom's fear, Proverbs 9:10; 15:33?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's accessibility, Proverbs 1:20-21?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's patience, Proverbs 1:22?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's authority, Proverbs 1:23?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's generosity, Proverbs 1:23?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's rejection, Proverbs 1:24-25, 29-30?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's verdict, Proverbs 1:24-31?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's promises, Proverbs 1:32-33?**
  
- ➔ **Wisdom's gospel, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31?**

# Message 3 - The Fallacy of “Finding” God’s Will

## Miscellaneous Scriptures

“Days That Demand Discernment”

Saturday Evening, September 6, 2014

### INTRODUCTION:

#### I. God’s will in Scripture.

##### 1. God’s revealed will.

➔ **God’s commands reveal His will.** (First sub-category of God’s revealed will)

Matthew 7:21.

1 Thessalonians 5:18.

1 Thessalonians 4:3.

➔ **God’s broad intentions for believers reveal His will.** (Second sub-category of God’s revealed will)

Romans 12:2.

➔ **God's plan for human history reveals His will.** (Third sub-category of God's revealed will)

**Galatians 1:4.**

**Ephesians 1:9-10.**

*Summary:*

**2. God's unrevealed will.**

**Proverbs 16:1, 3, 9; 19:21; 20:24.**

**Romans 15:30-32; 1:9-10.**

**Acts 18:20-21; 1 Corinthians 4:18-19.**

**James 4:13-15.**

*Conclusion:*



## **II. Man-centered attempts to “find God’s will” in decision making.**

**1. The purely pragmatic approach.**

**2. The “lucky-dip” approach with Scripture.**

**3. The prophecy approach.**

**4. The peaceful approach.**

**5. The opened or closed door approach.**

**6. The sign-seeking approach.**

**Observations and Conclusions:**

### **III. Decision making informed by Scripture.**

**1. In God's strength, be obedient to God's revealed will (commands, broad intentions).**

**2. Pray for wisdom.**

**3. Gather information and counsel.**

**4. Does the Bible speak directly to my decision?**

**5. How does the Bible speak indirectly to my decision?**

**6. Humbly follow your desire and decide.**

# Message 4 - Discerning Books (and Blogs)

## (Before “drinking deeply” from a book or blog. . .)

### “Days That Demand Discernment”

*Sunday Morning, September 7, 2014*

#### 1. Assess your own spiritual condition.

- The point: The kind of believer I am matters! What I should or should not read is influenced by my spiritual condition. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - ✓ What spiritual trajectory am I currently on? As I look back on the recent weeks, months, etc., where has my heart and decisions taken me?
  - ✓ What do mature believers around me say about my present spiritual condition? My trajectory? Have I received warnings from them? What do I hear from them? Which kind of believer am I according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (unruly, fainthearted, weak)? Based on that, what do I need most (admonishment, encouragement, help)?
  - ✓ As of late, have there been any expressions of simple-mindedness, foolishness, or mockery that I need to address?
  - ✓ What place has Scripture held in my daily and weekly life as of late? Has it been central to my life? Or peripheral?
  - ✓ What has been my view of and attitude toward Scripture lately?
  - ✓ Have other books/blogs bumped Bible reading to the curb of my life?
  - ✓ What has my view of sin been lately? What has my practice been when I am aware of sin in my life? Have I been quick to confess and begin repentance? Or have I been defensive?
  - ✓ Etc.

#### 2. Temporarily disassociate the subject of the book/blog from the author to examine the subject alone in Scripture.

- Sometimes an author’s name generates interest in us about a subject. We are drawn to the subject more by the author’s name than we are the subject itself. Recognize the possibility exists that this author’s treatment of the subject may not be the best there is to read. Have a category for this (that you might be more drawn to a specific author’s treatment of a subject than the best author’s treatment of the subject).
- Do your best first to turn through the pages of your Bible first to hear what God’s word says about the subject. This will accomplish the following for you:
  - ✓ You will become familiar and aligned with Scripture sooner than later on the subject, not being introduced to the Scriptures for the first time by the author. You will be more fortified to recognize the author’s use or misuse of Scripture on the subject.
  - ✓ It will train you to love and listen first to Scripture itself than other men’s comments on subjects.
  - ✓ It potentially can keep you from rashly and unnecessarily jumping on the latest fad or trendy author’s bandwagon.

### 3. Now assess the author treating the subject along biblical categories.

- The point: The kind of believer the author is matters! What I should or should not read is influenced by his/her spiritual condition. Ask yourself the following questions about the author:
  - ✓ What spiritual trajectory have they been on? Do your best to find out what you can. . .
  - ✓ What do other mature believers say about the author's lifestyle, writings, ministry, etc.?
  - ✓ What is the author's view of Scripture? High? Low? Hard to tell? How does the author handle God's word?
  - ✓ What is the author's view of sin? What is the author's remedy for sin? Is he/she clear about that or fuzzy?
  - ✓ Etc.
- This may mean that you have to browse some of the book itself before you devour it. Sometimes the author gives everything away about himself or herself in the preface (Sarah Young, "Jesus Calling"). Recognize that one author can have a varied accuracy on different subjects. Also recognize that an author may not always remain in such a spiritual condition or ability to treat subjects biblically. An author may begin his/her writing ministry treating subjects biblically but then become weak over time. Another author can begin poorly but then grow stronger in addressing subjects biblically. Does the author under consideration fit in either of those two categories? If so, where does the author's work you're considering fall? Have a category that an author's trustworthiness and effectiveness or helpfulness can fluctuate with time.

### 4. Select the book/blog that is best on the subject.

- Operate by the principle in Philippians 1:9-11 (select what is best). That may mean you choose the very book and author you have been considering. It may mean you choose another author's book. Either way, you were careful before you began "drinking deeply" from that author's well. . . Now, drink deeply and enjoy!

### 5. Recommending a book/blog?

- Would you like to recommend a book/blog to another believer? Has another believer asked you to recommend a book/blog for them to read? First, go through 1-3 above for yourself. The kind of believer you are will affect what kind of resources you recommend. Then, **assess the believer you'd like to make a recommendation to** by asking these kinds of questions:
  - ✓ What spiritual trajectory are they on? Looking back on the recent weeks and months, where has their heart and decisions led them?
  - ✓ What are mature believers saying about their spiritual trajectory? Have they been teachable? Discouraged? Weak? What kind of believer are they according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (unruly, fainthearted, weak)? Based on that, what do they need most (admonishment, encouragement, help)?
  - ✓ What place has Scripture held in their life on a daily and weekly place lately?
  - ✓ What is their attitude toward Scripture overall?
  - ✓ Has the Bible been bumped to the curb by many books and blogs lately? What place does the Bible hold in their life alongside other books and blogs?
  - ✓ What has their view of sin been lately? What has been their practice when they become aware of sin in their life?
  - ✓ In their life, have there been any expressions of simple-mindedness, foolishness, or mockery that need to be addressed?
  - ✓ Etc.
- See #4 (select what is best, Philippians 1:9-11).

## **General principles to keep in mind:**

- ➔ Recognize that fads/trends come and go. . . Where is "The Prayer of Jabez" now?? Be careful to not make a selection because it is trendy. Does the author appear more trendy or time-tested?
- ➔ Recognize that subjects are often written while the author is swinging from one evangelical distortion to another.
- ➔ Doctrinal errors often come through the over-emphasis of one truth at the neglect of another truth. Listen for how the author is not addressing companion/completing truths as he addresses the one truth.
- ➔ Have a category that books/blogs can be widely-mixed within (where some of the book is really good, while other parts are not helpful at all). Be careful before reading these and before recommending them to others. You may be able to recommend to one believer such a work but then not want to recommend it to another believer. Just because you found parts helpful doesn't mean everyone else will too. Be careful. . .



# Message 5 - Putting Discernment in Its Place

## Philippians 1:9-11

**“Days that Demand Discernment”**

*Sunday Evening, September 7, 2014*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

*8 statements to help you better understand what discernment is:*

**1. Discernment is deficient without abounding love for others, 1:9a.**

**2. Discernment is partnered with “serious” knowledge, 1:9b.**

**3. Discernment is spiritual perception, 1:9b.**

**4. Discernment should not exist in limited quantities, 1:9b.**

**Outlines**

- 5. Discernment assists in selecting what is best, 1:10a.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6. Discernment must contribute to godly living, 1:10b-11a.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7. Discernment has its eye on the day of Christ, 1:10b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8. Discernment ultimately prizes God's glory and praise, 1:11b.



## Session 1

### BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

***Behold our God seated on His throne***

***Come let us adore Him***

***Behold our King, nothing can compare***

***Come let us adore Him!***

Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

You Will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill)

### MIGHTY, MIGHTY SAVIOR

No one is good  
No one is holy before God  
I need someone to cleanse me  
No one is pure  
No one is righteous in Your sight  
I need someone to save me  
But I'm so glad You died and rose again  
For helpless sinners like me

***What a mighty, mighty Savior You are***

***What a mighty, mighty Savior You are***

***You can wash away my sin***

***You can change my heart within***

***What a mighty, mighty Savior You are***

Sin is too strong  
For me to conquer on my own  
I need someone to help me  
I am too weak  
I cannot change my evil heart  
I need someone to save me  
But I'm so glad You died and rose again  
For helpless sinners like me

## **ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING**

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou, burning sun with golden beam  
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood  
Come and rejoice in His great love  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Christ has defeated every sin  
Cast all your burdens now on Him  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in power to reign  
Heaven and earth will join to say  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Then who shall fall on bended knee?  
All creatures of our God and King  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **BE THOU MY VISION**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou  
art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true  
Word  
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance now and always  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys O bright  
Heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall  
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

### Session 3

#### GRACE AND PEACE

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?  
For lawbreakers and thieves, for the  
worthless, the least  
You have said that our judgement is death  
For all eternity without hope, without rest  
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an  
amazing mystery  
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?  
The matchless King of all paid the blood  
price for me  
Slaughtered Lamb, what atonement You  
bring!  
The vilest sinner's heart can be cleansed,  
can be free  
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an  
amazing mystery  
That Your grace has come to me

Grace and peace, oh how can this be?  
Let songs of gratefulness ever rise, never  
cease  
Loved by God and called as a saint  
My heart is satisfied in the riches of Christ  
Oh, What an amazing mystery, what an  
amazing mystery  
That Your grace has come to me

Oh, what an amazing love I see, what an  
amazing love I see  
That Your grace has come to me

#### I WILL GLORY IN MY REDEEMER

I will glory in my Redeemer  
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me  
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails  
And hung Him on that judgment tree  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who crushed the power of sin and death  
My only Savior before the Holy Judge  
The Lamb Who is my righteousness  
The Lamb Who is my righteousness

I will glory in my Redeemer  
My life He bought, my love He owns  
I have no longings for another  
I'm satisfied in Him alone  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
His faithfulness my standing place  
Though foes are mighty and rush upon  
me  
My feet are firm, held by His grace  
My feet are firm, held by His grace

I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who carries me on eagles' wings  
He crowns my life with lovingkindness  
His triumph song I'll ever sing  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who waits for me at gates of gold  
And when He calls me it will be paradise  
His face forever to behold  
His face forever to behold  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who waits for me at gates of gold  
And when He calls me it will be paradise  
His face forever to behold  
His face forever to behold  
His face forever to behold  
His face forever to behold

## **SHOW US CHRIST**

Prepare our hearts, O God  
Help us to receive  
Break the hard and stony ground  
Help our unbelief  
Plant Your Word down deep in us  
Cause it to bear fruit  
Open up our ears to hear  
Lead us in Your truth

***Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory  
Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord***

Your Word is living light  
Upon our darkened eyes  
Guards us through temptations  
Makes the simple wise  
Your Word is food for famished ones  
Freedom for the slave  
Riches for the needy soul  
Come speak to us today

Where else can we go, Lord  
Where else can we go  
You have the words of eternal life  
Where else can we go, Lord  
Where else can we go  
You have the words of eternal life

## Session 4

### REVELATION SONG

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, Holy,  
Holy is He  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing, "Praise to the King of kings!"  
You are my everything and I will adore You*

Grace and mercy, lovingkindness  
All will bow at Your feet  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory  
and power be  
To You, the only wise King

I'm filled with wonder, awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and  
Living Water  
Such a marvelous mystery

## JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken  
All to leave and follow Thee  
Destitute, despised, forsaken  
Thou from hence my all shall be  
Perish every fond ambition  
All I've sought or hoped or known  
Yet how rich is my condition  
God and heaven are still my own

Let the world despise and leave me  
They have left my Savior, too  
Human hearts and looks deceive me  
Thou are not, like them, untrue  
O while Thou dost smile upon me  
God of wisdom, love, and might  
Foes may hate and friends disown me  
Show Thy face and all is bright

Go, then, early fame and treasure  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather  
All must work for good to me

Haste thee on from grace to glory  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer  
Heaven's eternal days before thee  
God's own hand shall guide us there  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days  
Hope shall change to glad fruition  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise

## **JESUS, THANK YOU**

The mystery of the cross I cannot  
comprehend  
The agonies of Calvary  
You the perfect Holy One crushed Your  
Son  
Drank the bitter cup reserved for me

***Your blood has washed away my sin***

***Jesus, thank You***

***The Father's wrath completely satisfied***

***Jesus, thank You***

***Once Your enemy now seated at Your table***

***Jesus, thank You***

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought  
near  
Your enemy You've made Your friend  
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious  
grace  
Your mercy and Your kindness know no  
end

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You  
Lover of my soul, I want to live for You