

Books, DVD's, Websites and other sources of misinformation

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One of the big challenges facing modern believers is the **information explosion** (Dan. 12:4: But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth and evil [or knowledge] shall increase).

With the television and with the internet (and computers, iPods, etc.), the amount of information we have at our disposal is phenomenal and it can be very difficult to know how to manoeuvre through this **burgeoning maze of misinformation** without absorbing **lies**, and **deceptions** which would try to overthrow our faith and fill our hearts and minds with half truths and outright lies, packaged and presented as if they were true (2 Cor. 11:12-5 [deceivers and false angels of light in disguise] and Gen. 3:1[has G-d really said. . .])

I want to do two things with this challenge this evening. First I want to **briefly redefine** what the truth is that we believe, and then I want to examine what the Scriptures say about **evaluating sources of truth**.

The Five basic beliefs of our faith:

1. The Bible is the Word of G-d (no other document is) (2 P. 1:16-20)
2. Yeshua is G-d the Son (John 1:18) and Him alone (Echad not Yichad)
3. He was born of a virgin (fully human) (Heb. 4:15)
4. He died on the cross for the sins of the world (Col. 2:13, 14)
5. He rose, He ascended and He will one day return. (Acts. 1:11)

This is the core of all that we believe, nothing more, nothing less.

Now to the Scriptures:

Pr. 14:12 (There is a way which seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death).

Pr. 14:15 (The simple believe everything, but the clever consider their steps. The wise are cautious and turn away from evil, but the fool throws off constraint and is careless).

Pr. 12:15 (Fool think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice)

Pr. 16:25 (Sometimes there is a way which seems to be right, but in the end it is the way to death)

Pr. 18:17 (The one who first states a case seems right, until the other one comes and cross examines).

Pr. 19:27 (Cease straying, my child, from the words of knowledge, in order that you may hear instruction).

Pr. 21:2 (All deeds are right in the sight of the doer, but the L-RD weighs the heart).

Eccl. 9:17 (The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouting of a ruler among fools).

Jer. 23:31(28) (see, I am against the prophets, says the L-RD, who use their own tongues and say, "Says the L-RD" – Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word, speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? Is not my word like fire, says the L-RD, and like a hammer which breaks a rock in pieces?)

I Thess. 5:21 (Prove all things, and hold fast that which is true)

John 7:24 (Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment)

2 Tim. 2:15 (Study to show yourself approved unto G-d, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth)

Acts 17:11 (Now these Jews were more noble than those of Thessalonica, searching the Scriptures daily to see if what was told to them was there)

2 Cor. 2:17 (for we are not peddlers of G-d's Word, like so many, but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from G-d and standing in His presence).

I Cor. 4:6 (I have applied all of this to Apollos and to myself, for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying: "Nothing beyond that which is written")

I Cor. 14:29 (Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.)

We need to learn to ***discern the truth*** and to ask ourselves three questions:

1. What is really being said?
2. Who is it who is speaking?
3. How well do they know what they are talking about?