

## *An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)*

### **Be Thou Faithful Unto Your Spiritual Retirement Date**

#### **Scenario:**

There is an older couple in the congregation. As they grow older, it is obvious to all that their ability to do things physically has slowed greatly. This couple is able to make it to the grocery store, the doctors they need to see, and a few other things. However, they are limited in the distances they can travel safely. They definitely cannot be out at night because of various physical limitations. As they continue to age, they begin to suffer various illnesses and injuries that prevent them from being able to assemble with the saints regularly. Various members of the congregation are aiding them, checking in on them, and looking out for them.

#### **Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:**

As a member is talking with this couple when checking on them, this statement is made by the husband: "Like Paul, we have fought a good fight, finished the course, and have kept the faith. It is too hard for us to keep up with the congregation. So, you are not going to see us very often any more at services." The person visiting them questions this decision.

#### **A Later Statement Is Made:**

The wife responds to the questioning of their choice and says this: "We can barely get around any more. We plan on just reading our Bibles together here at home on Sundays and listening to sermons on the internet. If we keep coming to classes and worship services we will not have the energy we need to get to our doctor appointments and to make our Monday grocery store trip. You should know that we have put in over sixty years of faithful service to the church. It's time for us to step back."

**For Discussion:** What do you see in those statements?