

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

### **“I Haven’t Prospered This Week”**

#### **Scenario:**

A new family has begun to assemble with the congregation. There is a man, his wife, and two young children. The man and his wife profess to be Christians and from all they have said, appear to have properly obeyed the Gospel. They come each Sunday and are interested in being part of the congregation. They appear to have a lot to learn, but seem eager to do so. As studies occur with them, they are willing to make corrections where needed. As a couple of months pass, some brethren have noticed that the man and woman partake of the Lord’s Supper weekly. However, in a manner that is impossible for some not to see, they choose not to give. This has troubled a few of the brethren. Apart from each other, some have approached the man and asked if there is a reason he does not give on the first day of the week.

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

In separate discussions, the man tells multiple brethren this: “I do not give on a weekly basis because I do not believe such is required. I am paid monthly. I haven’t prospered this week. I choose to give as I have prospered. The word prosper means to be successful. I am not successful. Just because I don’t give on Sunday that doesn’t mean I don’t spend money on the Lord’s work. I do, but I will not tell you what I do. That is between God and I.”

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

In a study with this man, he tells one brother this: “Besides all that I have told the three brethren that I have talked to, I also have another reason I don’t give on the first day of the week. I have only been here for a couple of months. I am not giving to this congregation until I am sure everything here is right.”

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