

## Vet The Information

I. Introduction: The word “vet” as I am using it means: “make a careful and critical examination of (something)” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

- A. Think about a principle we [faithful saints] all know (**Acts 17:10-11**).
  - 1. The wrong information is not helpful (**Jeremiah 7:8**).
  - 2. Furthermore, following the wrong information is not excusable (**Matthew 15:14**).
- B. It is not good to be deceived (**Colossians 2:4-8**).
  - 1. Instructed to not be deceived by false representations of Christ or false doctrines (**Mark 13:5-6**).
  - 2. Instructed to not be deceived by thinking sinners are okay (**I Corinthians 6:9-10**).
  - 3. Instructed to not be deceived by thinking we are above being influenced for evil (**I Corinthians 15:33**).
  - 4. Instructed to not be self-deceived (**Galatians 6:3; 6:7** and **James 1:26**).
  - 5. Instructed to not be deceived by the words of men (**Ephesians 5:6** and **I John 3:7**).

II. Body: We Are Expected By God To Prove [Test] All Things (**I Thessalonians 5:21**)!

- A. Think about considering the source (**I Corinthians 3:18-20** and **James 3:13-18**).
  - 1. Is the world a credible source (**Galatians 1:3-4** and **I John 5:19**; cf. **II Timothy 3:13**)?
  - 2. Is our own understanding a credible source (**Proverbs 3:5-7**, **Proverbs 16:25**, **Proverbs 20:24**, and **II Corinthians 10:18**)?
  - 3. What do we see in the Scriptures about the need for credible (**Proverbs 12:17** and **Matthew 26:59-66**) witnesses (**Deuteronomy 17:2-7**, **Deuteronomy 19:15**, **Matthew 18:15-17**, **II Corinthians 13:1**, and **I Timothy 5:19**)?
  - 4. What source do we have to navigate through life and sort through the confusion (**Psalms 119:97-105** and **II Timothy 3:15-17**).
- B. We have to understand the times we live in and how to behave in such times (**Micah 7:1-7**).
  - 1. In some times, it's best to keep silence (**Amos 5:4-14**).
  - 2. We know we are to walk in wisdom towards those outside of the body of Christ (**Colossians 4:5-6**).
- C. Before you share with others what you've read, heard, etc.; understand what our words to others are supposed to be (**Proverbs 8:7**, **Proverbs 12:17**, **Romans 12:17**, **Ephesians 4:25**, and **Titus 2:7-8**).
  - 1. What we say reveals something about our character (**Proverbs 12:17**).
  - 2. Your reputation matters (**Proverbs 22:1** and **Ecclesiastes 7:1**).

3. If you cannot handle matters of the world right, why would anyone trust you with spiritual matters (**Luke 16:11-12**)?
4. Consider how that incorrect information quickly spreads (**Matthew 28:11-15** and **John 21:20-23**).
5. Do you want to be part of the spread of false information (**Proverbs 19:5; 19:9**)?

III. Conclusion: Don't believe everything you read or hear (**Proverbs 14:15** and **Mark 4:24**).