

## Christians are spiritually shrewd!

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### ➤ Intro:

- **Matt. 10:16** Jesus disciples must be spiritually shrewd, to overcome the wolves who are in the world
- **What does it mean to be spiritually shrewd? / How are we spiritually shrewd, today?**

### ➤ “Shrewd” in the Bible

- **Greek word *phronimos*** (fron'-ee-mos) meaning *intelligent, wise, prudent, shrewd*
  - from *phren* (frane), denoting one's thinking (**1 Cor. 14:20**)

### ➤ - Webster's English definition of shrewd

- good sense: “marked by clever discerning awareness and hardheaded acumen <shrewd common sense>”
- bad sense: “given to wily and artful ways or dealing <a shrewd operator>”

- **2 shrewd business men**, 1 spiritual and 1 not spiritual - difference between them - good and bad

### ➤ - Christians, walking in a dark and wicked world, we must have a cleaver and discerning awareness of the people and things around them – act accordingly – commercials, music TV, movies

- **Matt. 10:16** shrewd as serpents, gentle as doves

### ➤ As spiritually shrewd (wise, prudent) people, we serve God faithfully.

- **Matt. 7:24-27** Christians are wise (shrewd, vs. 24), build house on rock - Jesus, word - not on sand (sinkhole)

- **vs. 24, 26** act on Jesus' words = wise, prudent, shrewd

- **Ja. 1:22-25** not hears only but does – **Ja. 1:26-27 tongue, helping the helpless**

- **build our spiritual lives on Jesus, His word, His name (authority) – actions**

- **song #378, The Solid Rock** - chorus, On Christ the Solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand

### ➤ Lk. 16 As spiritually shrewd (wise, prudent) people, we serve God with out wealth (blessings, \$, possessions, time).

- **parable / principle**

- **Lk. 16:1-9** we must **make good use of our worldly wealth** to go to heaven (**vs. 9**)

### ➤ - lessons:

- **Lk. 16:10-13** the way we use our world wealth, **shows are faithfulness** - **faithful little, rewarded much**

### ➤ - Lk. 16:14-18 justifying our sins before men does not mean that we're justified before God

- **1 Pet. 3:12** “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

### ➤ - Lk. 16:18-31 parable: two men died, judged according to how they used their worldly wealth

- **we will be judged according to our relationships with other people (vs. 18) and the use of worldly wealth (\$, time, energy, possessions) (vs. 19-31) - two are inseparable**

### ➤ - Matt. 25:34-40 judgment, according to how used wealth (blessings, \$, possessions, time)

### ➤ - attitude toward wealth (blessings, \$, possessions, time)

- **1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19** attitude toward riches, enjoy, share, do good

### ➤ - Tit. 3:1, 14 good deeds, meet pressing (emergency) needs

- As spiritually shrewd (wise, prudent) people, we are ready for the Lord's return.
    - **Matt. 24:44-46** sensible (shrewd, wise, prudent) slave is **ready** for master's return - **Lord**
  - - **parable of the ten virgins, 5 wise and 5 foolish, wise were ready for bridegroom - Jesus / bridegroom**
    - **Matt. 25:2, 4, 8, 9** *phronimos* translated *prudent* (NASB), *wise* (KJ)
  - - **Christians shrewdly wait, ready for Christ's coming**
    - **2 Pet. 3:3-4** sinful men are not waiting, they are mocking, convincing others Christ is not coming
  - - **2 Pet. 3:5-7** sinful men don't understand what Christians understand - like flood, like Christ's coming
  - - **2 Pet. 3:8-9** example of the flood, destruction of the world by God, proves. . . .
  - - **2 Pet. 3:10** fact – Christians believe and wait, sinners disbelieve
  - - **2 Pet. 3:11-14** what Christians do vs. sinners (unbelievers) - believe God will destroy earth, judge
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- **Summary / Inv.**
    - **Are you spiritually shrewd, prudent, wise?**
      - **Yes, if** you are faithfully serving God
      - **Yes, if** you are using you wealth (blessings, \$, possessions, time) in service to God.
      - **Yes, if** you are ready for the Lord's return – holy in conduct, godly, looking for the new heavens and earth, peaceable, spotless, blameless.
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- **inv.:** Are you ready? (illus.: song), is to ask, Are you spiritually shrewd?