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The Controversial Church: Where Do We Begin?

Romans 12:2 - *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Acts 17:11-12 – *And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. ¹² As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.*

- **We Need To Be Watchful And Discerning Of The “Shifts” In Culture**

Matthew 16:1-3 - *One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. ² He replied, “You know the saying, ‘Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; ³ red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.’ You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times!*

John 1:1 - *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

- **The Very Source Of Everything We Understand From The Beginning**

Colossians 1:17 - *He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*

- **Jesus Expressed The Father To Us And Made Him Real To Us**

1 Corinthians 8:6 - *But for us, there is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.*

Hebrews 1:2 - *And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.*

- **Everything Came Into Being Through Christ And Depends Upon Him As Well**
- **We Gain Understanding, Moral Insight, And Spiritual Vision**
- **The Power Of Christ's Light Overcomes Any Darkness In The World**