## Friends and Family,

Sadly, I hear friends and family making authoritative comments about current events on social media and in verbal conversations, yet almost never do they sincerely want to dialog with others who might disagree. The natural result is people pooling together into isolated cult-like cliques, never hearing alternative reasoning or evidences that might correct errors in their pet assumptions. Like blind sheep we all tend to uncritically follow the path of least resistance or conflict. We toss out bold statements and then retreat to our mutually exclusive, separate safe places.

As I've watched the news over the past few years, especially the last months, increasingly the warnings of Jesus ring louder and louder in my ears. Jesus answered: Watch out that no one deceives you. Matthew 24:4. People are selfish and when in power use their position to deceive and manipulate those under them. No group is exempt. Both conservative and liberal power players are using opposing media news outlets to exaggerate and fabricate misinformation into disinformation to brainwash and polarize us regular folks.

My grandfather was a judge and my father a logical lawyer always seeking evidence for any important decision. It seems I must have naturally absorbed his ways so I have tried to carefully examine both sides, their contrasting claims, and then actual source evidences behind them. Both sides are filled with fake news.

Too many people fail to critically fact check not only the claims but also the backgrounds of the people making them. Please consider something. Are your beliefs really your own or are you unconsciously mirroring the mantras of your personal peer group? Have you taken the time to read the personal writings, the books, of Trump, Obama, and the Clintons for example about what they believe, why they believe it, and where they got those beliefs? Do you know who mentored Trump, Obama, and the Clintons? Do you know where the money comes from that supports them? Have you carefully examined the policies of these politicians along with scholarly critical evaluations of them by top experts, both conservative and liberal?

If not, why not? No time? What about all the time we modern people spend amusing ourselves to death as a culture. The worse muse means to think so amuse means not thinking. We live in the most information saturated time in history. Yet most people have unwittingly allowed themselves to become not just uninformed but arrogantly ignorant, holding passionately to beliefs based on superficial knowledge.

There is only one power player who is worthy of your trust. He proved it by sacrificing His life for you and me, even though we are naturally enemies against Him and His Way. Romans 5:1-10. He alone is the source of perfect unselfish love that this world needs. The only ruler who by His eternal nature is a Servant Leader eager to come down to us and lift us up into His realm to enjoy and live His love His Way. Matthew 20:24-28. Please beware of the current deceptions and the coming great delusion. 2 Thessalonians 2.

Prayerfully. Sid