

*These Perilous Times*  
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**“Listen Closely”**

**Part I**

Musicians having a desire to teach professionally are required to study a very concentrated core curriculum of musical performance skills and pedagogies to earn their BS degree in Music Education.

They are required to be proficient on their major instrument, which includes private lessons, and several semesters of ensemble playing, recitals, and performance juries. They must also be proficient on all the instruments which make up the musical families. i.e., strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, as well as piano and voice.

Music theory which is also required includes, but is not limited to, the study of musical form and analysis, vocal, and/or instrumental conducting, arranging, sight singing, ear-training which requires musical dictation etc.

## A little history

I remember several years ago what one of my first ear-training instructors said very emphatically about taking music dictation. **Listen very carefully before responding** to what you hear being played on the piano, **then write it down.**

She would play various chord progressions with a bass line and the class would have to write down the chords in 4-part choral style using the correct voicing/inversion of the chords that she played. **Listening closely was very important!**

### **“Rightfully Dividing the Word of Truth”**

**Careful/prayerful listening is a matter of eternal life or death when spiritually discerning what God’s Word is saying to His people.** It is very crucial, and one of the most essential gifts that characterize His last-day remnant people.

**What does this mean for us?**

## Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

In these troublesome times, just before the return of Jesus, there are many strange voices lobbying for our time and attention.

Jesus tells us of some startling things which will come to pass prior to His return. Among them is **deception**. He stated that many will be deceived by false Christs and prophets.<sup>1</sup>

The ear-training needed for spiritual discernment comes from listening to the right voice.

**“My sheep hear ‘My voice,’ and I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27**

**“A wise man will hear, and increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” Proverbs 1:5**

The hearing and learning referred to in the previously mentioned text is the learning and

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 24:4, 5; 11, 23-26

wisdom that comes only from hearing, and carefully listening to God's Word!

"These were noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures *daily*, whether those things were so." Act 17:11

The Bereans listened carefully and prayerfully to what Paul and Silas were preaching, but searched the scriptures daily to make sure that what they heard was correct.

**How noble are we? Do we hear what God's Spirit, through His Word, is saying to His remnant people?**

