

Beware Of Wolves Matthew 7:15–23

Always A Danger

God's people always plagued with false teachers.

Elijah Mt. Carmel **1Kings 18**; Micaiah Ahab's "yes men" **1Kings 22**; Jeremiah **5:30-31**

Now no different

Added to the warning from Jesus are abundant warnings from inspired writers

Bible not only warns us false teachers will come but tells us how to recognize them.

Identifying Them

How can we spot such "wolves" when they appear so disarming (like sheep)?

They come in unaware - **Matthew 7:15**; **2Peter 2:1**; **Jude 3-4**

False teachers will come, and secretly; foolish if do not believe it can happen here

We must be on guard - **1John 4:1**; **1Peter 5:8**; **2Timothy 4:3-4**

By examining the fruit of their life - **Matthew 7:16-20**

Often betrayed by greediness, immorality, lust for power - **2Corinthians 11:12-15**; **1Timothy 4:1-3**

Using deceptive words - **2Peter 2:3**

Given time, true character will be exposed by the fruit of their life! - **Mark 7:21-23**

Ministries (especially finances) shrouded in secrecy

Rather than being open to one and all - **2Corinthians 8:20-21**

Taking notice of their doctrine

How they twist and pervert the scriptures - **Galatians 1:8-9**; **2Timothy 2:14-16**

Their gospel may start out right, but becomes twisted along the way

Their teaching often expressed in the terms of man, not Scripture

They teach that which is clearly contrary to scriptures - **Deuteronomy 13:1-4**; **1John 4:5-6**

By examining the fruit of their teaching

They tend only to gratify the flesh

Appealing to covetousness - **2Peter 2:3**

Rather than preparing people for what Christians can expect - **2Timothy 3:12**

Not only do the false teachers satisfy their own desires - **Romans 16:18**; **Colossians 2:23**

Teaching satisfies the flesh of man more than it fills his spiritual needs.

Application: Gymnasiums, "multi-purpose" buildings, food, fun, frolic; satisfying of the flesh

Lost the "spiritual institution of God" - **Ezekiel 22:26**

Focus on social and recreational activities instead of work and service

Teach by action, example, and "program", that church exists to serve; church is social

May we be given the wisdom to see through this flesh - satisfying "brand" of Christianity

They will have many followers - **2Peter 2:2**

They look and sound so good; preach what people want to hear, and provide what people want

Bible tells us to recognize and avoid them - **Acts 20:28-31**; **Galatians 1:6-12**

Consider The Consequences

Only those who do the father's will, will be saved - **Matthew 7:21**; **James 1:22-25**

Not everyone who professes Jesus - **James 2:19**; **John 12:42-43**

Not everyone who does many good works - **Matthew 7:22**

Not they did something condemned, but did things for which they had no authority! - **Matthew 7:23**

True disciples not only believe in Him, but do what He says - **John 8:30-32**

Not salvation by perfect law-keeping, believing earn salvation by merit

Good works certainly do not earn our way to heaven - **Titus 3:3–7**; **Acts 10:1-5**; **11:14**

When all is said and done, we are still unworthy - **Luke 17:10**

The Father's will does require obedience! - **Romans 6:17-18**; **Hebrews 5:9**; **2Thessalonians 1:7-9**