

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Matt. 7:15-21

I. FALSE PROPHETS

- A. Matt. 7:15-21: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."
- B. Matt. 24:11,24: "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many ... For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect."
- C. Luke 6:26: "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets."
- D. Acts 13:6: "Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus."
- E. Acts 20:29-30: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."
- F. 2 Tim. 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."
- G. 2 Pet. 2:1: "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."
- H. 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- I. Rev. 16:13: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."
- J. Rev. 19:20: "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone."

- K. Rev. 20:10: "And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

II. WHAT IS GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS FALSE PROPHETS.

- A. God is against those who teach it. (Mark them.)
(Jer. 23:30-32 and Rom. 16:17)
- B. He demands that we condemn error. (Some speaking lies.)
(2 Tim. 4:1-2)
- C. Must not endorse one in error. (Do not receive them.)
(2 John 9-11)
- D. God demands that we test preachers. (I John 4:1)
- E. Paul placed a curse on false teachers. (If I or an angel) (Gal. 1:6-9)

III. ATTITUDE THE CHURCH MUST HAVE TOWARD THE DOCTRINES OF MEN.

- A. Prove all things. (1 Thess. 5:21-22)
- B. Approve all things that are excellent. (Phil. 1:9-10)
- C. Handle not, Taste not, Touch not. (Col. 2:20-22)
- D. Speak things which befit sound doctrine. (Titus 1:9; 2:1)
- E. Not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. (Eph. 4:14)
- F. Believe not every spirit - prove them. (1 John 4:1-6)
- G. Not carried away by strange teaching. (Heb. 13:9-19)
- H. Not spoiled by traditions of men. (Col. 2:8)
- I. Not carried away by the wicked. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- J. Speak only those things received. (Acts 4:19-20)

IV. MESSAGES OF FALSE PROPHETS TODAY.

1. Practice sprinkling as a mode of baptism.
2. That sinner should come to mourner's bench to pray for salvation.

3. That an alien sinner is saved by faith only.
4. That the Bible is not inspired.
5. That the Bible is not the only standard of authority in Christianity.
6. That the Lord's Supper can be partaken of monthly, bi-annually, annually.
7. Women preachers becoming popular with many groups.
8. That their preacher is the pastor of the church.
9. That the form of church government doesn't really matter.
10. That instrument music is authorized in worship.
11. That man may serve as an elder with no wife, or no children.
12. "Talk of joining the church," "Church of your choice," "One as good as another."
13. Deny that virgin birth, His physical resurrection, the other miracles.
14. That the creeds of men are proper and are needed.
15. That one just needs to follow his conscience and be sincere.
16. That morality alone will save - just be a good moral man.
17. Any scheme for raising money for church is alright (begging, pie supper, raffles, etc.)
18. Modern divine healing (have same power to heal the Apostles had).
19. That Hell is not a place - not a place of suffering - of eternal suffering.
20. There is no Heaven - We have this life and no more.
21. Predestination - limited atonement.
22. Universalism - Universal Salvation.
23. Direct operation of the Holy Spirit to enable a man to be saved.
24. Infant depravity - also total depravity.

25. That church established during Abraham's, John The Baptist Time, 1914, others.
26. Premillennialism - Earth reign of Christ for 1,000 years.
27. That Law of Moses is still binding.
28. Special worship days - Easter, Christmas, Lent.
29. Voting into the church - Voting out of the church.
30. Doesn't matter whose name one wears in religion.
31. That Pope of Rome is head of Christ's church on earth.
32. That a Christian cannot fall from grace - once saved, always saved.
33. Advocate free love, mixed bathing, dancing, social drinking.
34. That man can be saved outside the church.
35. That they have had special revelations from God. (Joe Smith, M. B. Eddy, E. G. White)

V. A MERE PROFESSION OF FAITH IS NOT ENOUGH.

- A. "Not all who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."
- B. Faith without doing God's Commandments is dead.
- C. This is the basic sin of most of Christianity today.
 1. They have given mental assent to God and Christ.
 2. Then they turn and do anything they please.
 - (a) Yet, God's Word is the standard and the only standard.

VI. "THEN, WILL I CONFESS I NEVER KNEW YOU."

- A. That is, regardless of the many religious works you did in My name, I will profess to you that I never recognized you in the first place."

- B. They had never been acceptable to Christ in the beginning of their teaching and he would publicly profess the same to them in the last day.
- C. No doubt, many will be surprised to find that their work and worship was vain because it was false.

VII. FALSE TEACHING IS TO BE TRIED BY THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. If it is less than the Bible teaches, it is too little.
- B. If it is more than the Bible teaches, it is too much.
- C. If it is contrary to what the Bible teaches, it is false.
- D. Prove all things - Hold fast to that which is good. (1 Thess. 5:21)