



Warning Against False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:15-20).

As the end time draws near, the devil is intensifying his efforts to deceive many into eternal destruction. It therefore, behoves the wise to be wide awake and soberly watch to escape from the snares of the devil.

Speaking to His disciples, Jesus warned them to beware of false prophets. If there was no danger of being deceived and falling away from the grace of God there would have been no need for such a warning. If once a person is born again there is no danger of missing heaven, Jesus would not have wasted His time teaching and warning people of the danger of deception by false prophets. If the Biblical doctrine of predestination means what some people stretch it to mean today, then Jesus would not have warned his followers of the danger of deception by false prophet.

This is why we need to be careful that we do not allow our beliefs and philosophies turn us into sceptics and unbelievers of the express teachings of the word of God. To do so is to already fall victim of false prophets. In this teaching, Jesus is very clear about the following points:

- 1) False prophets come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (vs 15),
- 2) You can know them, and indeed it is your responsibility to do so, by examining their fruits (vs 16),
- 3) Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit (vs 17),
- 4) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit (vs 18),

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).

- 5) A corrupt tree bring forth good fruit (vs 18),
- 6) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire (vs 19),
- 7) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (vs 20). By this Jesus was squarely putting the responsibility of His followers, to use their God-given faculties along with the scriptures and the help of the Holy Spirit to discern, identify false prophets and avoid them / their doctrines.

Gullibility destroys. The following principles can help us put Jesus' admonition into practice:

- 1) Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- 2) Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- 3) Galatians 1:8,9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
- 4) 2 John 1:10,11 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.
- 5) 1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
- 6) Being fully persuaded as Jesus in John 10:35 “... and the scripture cannot be broken”.
- 7) 1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.
- 8) 2 Peter 1:5-11 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith... for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”

If you love your soul, obey Jesus' command!