

Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Doug Toller  
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***Wolves Among Us!***  
June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

***Matthew 7: 15-20***

Jesus warns His followers of False Prophets who look like sheep (true Christians), but are inwardly “ravenous wolves”! Jesus said that these False Prophets will “come to you in sheep’s clothing.” These prophets cannot keep their ideas to themselves – they will target Jesus’ followers to promote their deception!

- ❖ How can we recognize them? We must be alert and take note of the results, or fruit, of their teaching.
- ❖ What does “Bad Fruit” look like?

## The Bad Fruit of False Prophets & False Teachers among God's people

### 1 Timothy 1:3-7

“... *different doctrine, ...which promotes speculations...*” 1 Timothy 1:3-4

Speculation: “Mental scheme; theory; views of a subject not verified by fact or practice. ...”<sup>1</sup>

“... *other doctrine, ...which cause disputes...*” 1 Timothy 1:3-4 (NKJ)

- ❖ Vain discussions involving confident assertions about which they do not understand! 1 Timothy 1:6-7

**Good Fruit:** Timothy was to...

“...[hold] *faith and a good conscience. ...*” 1 Timothy 1:18-19

### 1 Timothy 1:19-20

Hymenaeus and Alexander ...

... Rejected the truth and destroyed their faith.

... Hymenaeus also denied the bodily resurrection of Christians and was upsetting the faith of some Christians! 2 Timothy 2:17-18

**Good Fruit:** Paul told Timothy that “*God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: ‘The lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.’*” 2 Timothy 2:19

### 1 Timothy 6:3-5

... *a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound Words of our Lord Jesus and the teaching that accords with Godliness,*” 1 Timothy 6:3

- ❖ False teachers promote controversy and quarreling about words which produce...

... envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction.

- ❖ Characteristics of a false teacher...

... “*people who are depraved in mind and deprived of truth,*” 1 Timothy 6:5

... those who focus on money! 1 Timothy 6:9-10

**Good Fruit:** “*But as for you, O Man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*” 1 Timothy 6:11

## **2 Peter 2:1-3**

False prophets and teachers ...

... secretly bring in destructive heresies.

... deny the Master who bought them – Jesus!

... follow their sensuality and blaspheme the truth.

## **2 Peter 2:14-22**

False prophets and teachers ...

... have eyes full of adultery.

... entice unsteady souls.

... entice sensual passions of the flesh.

*Jude 4 “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

... promise freedom but are themselves slaves to corruption.

... had escaped the defilements of the world then became entangled in them!

“These false teachers apparently professed to be Christians, but their return to their old sinful way of life showed that their knowledge of Christ and the way of righteousness was only superficial.”<sup>2</sup>

Today, false teachers and self-proclaimed prophets in the broad scope of Christianity promote Universalism, Annihilationism, Liberalism, Relativism, Theistic Evolution, ordination of practicing homosexuals, pro-choice advocacy, denial of the supernatural, and denial of the absolute truth of God’s Word.

## **The Good Fruit of True Christian Teachers**

*“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:17-18*

Endnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.
  - <sup>2</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.
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