

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Matthew 7:15-20

We must learn to discern false teachers so that we avoid their harmful influence in our lives.

The deception by false teachers, 7:15

By their appearance

The detection false of teachers, 7:16-20

By their creed

By their character

By their converts

The destination of false teachers, 7:19

In the lake of fire

Cautions:

Don't be wary and suspicious of everybody.

Let's not go heresy hunting.

Exhortations:

Be on guard!

Truth really matters and it will build up God's church.

Whose responsibility is the church?

The elders, and...

Therefore:

Search the Scriptures daily.

Fervently and faithfully pray.

Exhort one another daily, and know that there will be a judgment!

Tabletalk Questions

For 5-16-10 sermon

"Wolves in Sheep's Clothing" Matthew 7:15-20

Why is it significant that Jesus' warnings about false prophets (7:15-20) comes right after His discussion of the narrow and wide gates?

Jesus says that false prophets "come to you in sheep's clothing," but what are they (7:15)? What disguises do they wear today (7:21-23)?

What false messages or prophesies have you heard lately? How could you tell they were false?

When Jesus says, "You will know them by their fruits" (7:16,20), what kind of fruit does He have in mind? How can the quality of fruit reveal the quality of the tree? What kind of "fruit" are you bearing?

How can we keep from becoming "witch hunters" as we seek to recognize false teachers?

How can Jesus' warning about the final destination of false prophets (7:19) keep us from becoming complacent as Christians?