

Some Sheep Have Fangs!

1. PAUL WARNED THE EPHESIAN ELDERS in *Acts 20:28-31*:

*“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you Overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which He bought with His own blood. I know that after I leave, savage **wolves** will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even **from your own number** men will arise and **distort the Truth in order to draw away disciples after them**. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”*

A. But, even though Paul warned them, long after Paul was gone, the wolves did come in and “*distort the Truth*,” and Jesus had to warn this same Church in ***Revelation 2:4,5***: “*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have **fallen!** Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and **remove your lamp stand from its place** (meaning they were not going to make it to Heaven).”*

B. How could this Church have been deceived by false prophets (*wolves*) after they were taught and warned for three years by the Apostle Paul himself?

(1) Peter explains in ***II Peter 3:15-17***: “*Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters (like **Ephesians**), speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people (savage wolves...from your own number) **distort**, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

*Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, **be on your guard** (as Paul warned Ephesus for three years) so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men (**savage wolves**) and **fall from your secure position** (which the **wolves** told them they could never do).”*

2. JESUS TELLS US HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE WOLVES in *Matthew 7:13-23*:

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and **broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it**. But **small** is the gate and **narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it**. Watch out for **false prophets**. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious **wolves**. By their **fruit** you will recognize them...**Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. Many will say to Me on that Day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your Name, and in your Name drive out demons, and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’”***

A. Notice the **majority** of people who call themselves “Christians” are following the “wide” and “broad road that leads to destruction;” and “only a few” Christians will “**find**” the “**small and narrow road that leads to life**.”

B. Notice that the **majority** are following “*false prophets*” that appear to be “*sheep*” but are really “*wolves*,” and that these people will “*prophecy*” in the name of Jesus, “*drive out demons*” in the name of Jesus, and “*perform miracles*” in the name of Jesus (**faith healing?**). Sounds like **world wide television evangelism and mega-Churches** (what the **majority** of Christians hear and follow)!

C. “PROPHECY” in the name of Jesus. They claim to have either seen Jesus, or have been given new revelations or prophecies from Jesus.

(1) *Matthew 15:9* quotes Jesus as saying: “*They worship Me in vain; their teachings are but rules made by men.*”

(2) *Colossians 2:8* says they take Christians “*...captive with hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*” *Verse 18* says they “*...delight in false humility and the worship of angels.*” **They go into “...great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up...”**

(3) *Matthew 24:23-27* warns if anyone claims to have seen Jesus, **don’t believe them!**

(4) *II Peter 2:1-3,13-22* warns us that these false prophets and teachers “*secretly introduce destructive heresies*” They “*...bring the way of Truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.*” They “*...carouse in broad daylight...reveling in their pleasures...with eyes full of adultery...they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed (money making)...they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom (Jude 4), while they themselves are slaves of depravity...they turn their back on the sacred commandment (New Testament) that was passed on to them.*”

(a) *Paul warned the Galatian Christians in Galatians 5:4-21:* “*...you have fallen from grace...You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the Truth?...You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature...The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*”

(5) *I Thessalonians 2:1-6* tells us false prophets preach and teach *error*, with *impure motives*, trying to *trick* Christians people into believing them with **flattery**, and a **mask to cover up their greed for money**. They are interested only in *praise from men (Matthew 6:1-24)*.

(6) I Timothy 6:3-10: “If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to Godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments that result in envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been **robbed of the Truth and who think that Godliness is a means to financial gain.**

*But Godliness with **contentment** is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that (they preach you should **not** be content with being poor). **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**”*

(a) How many TV evangelists do you know that indeed preach and teach that “*Godliness is a means to financial gain?*” That certainly “*does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ!*” **This Scripture marks them as false prophets who have been *robbed of the Truth?* As **II Corinthians 2:17** says, they “*peddle the Word of God for profit.*” **Jesus Christ never promise worldly wealth...but the Devil did!****

(b) Luke 4:5-8: “The Devil led Jesus up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Jesus, ‘I (the Devil, not God) will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me (not Jesus), and I can give it to anyone I want to (If it were not true, don’t you think the Son of God would know?). So if you worship me (Satan), it will all be yours!**”** ACCORDING TO THIS SCRIPTURE, WHO PROMISED, AND HAS THE AUTHORITY, TO MAKE YOU RICH ON THIS EARTH? NOT JESUS! **READ I JOHN 5:19, II CORINTHIANS 4:4, JOHN 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 WHICH CONFIRM THAT SATAN IS IN CONTROL OF THIS WORLD!**

(c) Jesus said it was **hard for a rich person to get into Heaven — READ **Matthew 19:16-30** (Rich young ruler was told to give his **earthly wealth** away to the poor), **AND Luke 12:13-21** (Rich man stored **earthly wealth** and God called him a “*fool*”)!**

(d) In **Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus warned us: “*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other, but you cannot serve both God and Money!*”**

(7) But what about II Corinthians 9:6-11: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows generously will also reap generously**. Each man should **give what he has decided in his heart to give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, **so that in all things at all times, having all that you need**, you will abound in every good work...Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also **supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness**. **You will be made rich in every way.**”

(a) So, the more money I give (*sow*) to the Lord’s work, the more money God will give me? And if I max out my credit card (the only way I can give what I’d like to give to the Lord), the Lord promises to pay it off and give me extra cash as well? **NO! THEY SKIPPED CHAPTER 8:12:** “For if the willingness is there, **the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.**” When you use your **credit card**, you are giving the **bank’s money, not yours!** Therefore, your gift is **unacceptable!**

(b) Verse 8 does not say God will give you all that you **want**, it says God will give you “*all that you need.*” **Remember Matthew 6:25-34.**

(c) Nor does **Verse 10** say that God will supply and increase your store of **money**, and enlarge your **bank account!** It says God will “*supply and increase your store of seed, and enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*” You can’t take a bag of corn seeds to the market, and say here’s your corn, now give me my money. You have to plant or *sow* the **seed** (which is the **Word of God** according to **Luke 8:11**), wait for it to grow into **corn** (**mature Christians** according to **Matthew 13:23**), and then at the **harvest** (“*the end of the age*” according to **Matthew 13:39**), get your money (**which is in “Heaven”** according to **Matthew 6:20**).

(d) But, what about **verse 11:** “*you will be made rich in every way*”? **THEY SKIPPED CHAPTER 6:10:** Paul said he was “*...poor* (on earth), **yet making many rich** (when they got to **Heaven**); **having nothing** (on earth), **and yet possessing everything** (in **Heaven**).” **AND CHAPTER 8:9:** “*...though Jesus was rich* (in **Heaven**), **yet for our sake he became poor** (on earth), **so that we through His poverty** (on earth) **might become rich** (when we get to **Heaven**).” Jesus has, indeed, made Christians **rich**, and we can make others rich as well by **sowing the Word of God** in their hearts (and that takes money). **BUT, OUR RICHES, ACCORDING TO JESUS, IN MATTHEW 6:19-21, ARE IN HEAVEN, NOT HERE ON EARTH!**

(8) In *Philippians 4:10-20*, the Apostle Paul told one of the only churches that supported him financially: “...for I have learned to be *content* whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. *I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.*”

(a) A true prophet of God will preach *Hebrews 13:5-6*: “*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’*”

(9) *Ephesians 5:3-18* tells us false prophets and teachers will deceive Christians into thinking they can still be *sexually immoral, greedy for money, use obscenities and coarse joking, drink*, and continue to live in the sins they lived in before they became Christians. **We are commanded to expose them!**

(10) *II Timothy 4:1-5* warns us that the majority of preachers are going to teach false doctrine, and **the majority of Churches will hire preachers and teachers that will tell them what they want to hear instead of the Truth.**

(11) *Romans 16:17* warns us to **stay away from them!**

(12) *Titus 1:9* commands us to **refute those who preach and teach false doctrine, and **have nothing to do with him after a second warning (3:10).****

(13) *II John 1:10*: “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching (the original New Testament Scriptures), **do not take him into your house or welcome him.”***

(a) That would include the **Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, and anyone else that is preaching or teaching something that is not in the original Gospels.**

(14) *Galatians 1:6-10* warns: “*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a **different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we (Apostles) or an angel from Heaven (like Gabriel) should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be **eternally condemned!** As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted** (original New Testament), **let him be eternally condemned!**”***

(a) How many Scripture warnings have you ever read in the Bible that was strongly repeated **twice**, just to be sure you got the warning?

D. “DRIVE OUT DEMONS” in the name of Jesus. Jesus cast demons out at least six different times that we know of. He told His disciples in *Matthew 17:14-21* that if they had enough faith, they could do the same.

(1) *Acts 16:16-18* tells of a demon possessed **slave girl** who tried to make people believe she was one of the Apostle Paul’s greatest supporters.

(2) *II Corinthians 11:13-15* warns us that **Satan’s servants** will masquerade as servants of righteousness (Christians), working for him inside the Church!

(3) *Luke 4:33-36* tells how Jesus found a **demon possessed man in the Church!**

(4) *I Timothy 4:1,2* warns us that a lot of Christians will follow **things taught by demons**. That means some preachers are demon possessed! They are *hypocrites, liars*, and have no *conscience*.

(5) *Acts 8:9-23* tells how **Philip baptized a sorcerer**, who tried to become a powerful Christian in the newly formed Church until the Apostles exposed him.

(6) *I Peter 5:8-10* warns that **Satan looks for Christians to destroy**

(a) *Ephesians 4:27* warns Christians to **not give the Devil a foothold** by becoming so **angry** you lose your **temper** and **self control**.

(b) *James 4:7* says that if we **resist the Devil he’ll flee from us!**

E. “PERFORM MIRACLES” in the name of Jesus. Remember, Jesus said in *Matthew 12:38-40* that only a *wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!*

(1) *Matthew 24:24* warns us that **false prophets will perform miracles** to deceive Christians.

(2) *Revelation 16:14* tells us they get **their power from demons!**

(3) The Bible warns in *II Thessalonians 2:1-12* of the coming of the **Man of Sin** or the Man of Lawlessness who will lead the world astray “*in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders...*”

(4) Remember, the **demon possessed girl** in *Acts 16:16-18* earned a lot of money **predicting the future**.

(5) **Jesus performed many miracles** as recorded in the four Gospels: 17 bodily cures, 9 over nature, 3 raising the dead, and others not described in detail. **NO ONE (including all the faith healers of our time) has ever been able to duplicate these miracles except the Apostles, and those they laid hands on (Acts 8:14-23).**

(6) After Jesus ascended, God did at least **5 miracles without any human agent**:

(a) *Acts 4* - The place where the Church met was shaken

(b) *Acts 5* - The death of Ananias and Sapphira.

(c) *Acts 12* - King Agrippa killed

(d) *Acts 28* - Paul bitten by a poisonous snake

(7) Then, to establish the **Apostles**, God worked miracles **only** through them, and those they laid hands (*Acts 6 & 8*) on. **Read them, and judge for yourself if any faith-healer today has the same power to heal such conditions with instant results!):**

(a) *Acts 3* - Peter & John healed man **lame from birth**

(b) *Acts 9* - Peter heals Aeneas, a bed-ridden **paralytic of 8 years**

(c) *Acts 9* - Peter raised Dorcas from the **dead**

(d) *Acts 13* - Paul struck Elymas, a sorcerer **blind**

(e) *Acts 14* - Paul healed the man **lame from birth**.

(f) *Acts 19* - Paul healed the **sick** and drove out **demons** with clothes and aprons he had touched.

(g) *Acts 20* - Paul raised **Eutychus** from the dead!

(h) *Acts 28* - Paul healed **Publius' father**.

(i) **General miracles** done by the **Apostles** (*Acts 2:43,5:12*), **Stephen** (*Acts 6:8*), **Philip** (*Acts 8:6*), and **Paul & Barnabas** (*Acts 14:3*)

(8) FALSE PROPHETS SAY THE REASON THEY COULD NOT PERFORM THE MIRACLE WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF FAITH In *Mark 9:14-24 & Matthew 17:14-20* Jesus told His disciples that the **reason they couldn't perform certain miracles was because of THE LACK OF THEIR FAITH**, not the faith of the one to be healed!

(a) Only one of the 14 healings listed in (7) above **required faith on the part of the one to be healed: Acts 14:8-10** (the cripple).

(b) **Four** out of the eight miracles described in (7) **specifically exclude faith on the part of the one to be healed!**

(9) Sometimes The Spirit would not allow even an Apostle to heal:

(a) Epaphroditus (*Philippians 2:26-27*)

(b) Paul (*II Corinthians 12:7-10*)

(c) Timothy (*I Timothy 5:23*)

(d) Trophimus (*II Timothy 4:20*)

(10) SO WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO SAY GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO BE HEALED?** They quote: ***“by his stripes ye were healed.” They claim you have already been healed, you just need enough faith to accept it. **LET'S READ THAT SCRIPTURE...ALL OF IT! I Peter 2:19-25:** *“For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps.*

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly (Romans 12:17-19). He Himself bore our sins (not physical sickness and pain) in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; BY HIS WOUNDS (STRIPES) YOU HAVE BEEN HEALED (OF SIN, NOT SUFFERING OR SICKNESS - WE WERE CALLED TO SUFFER!). For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned (repented) to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls (not body, or physical sickness).”

(a) Peter clearly explains **“by His stripes ye were healed,” to mean healed from sin, not physical sickness or pain!** He explains in the same verse that we as Christians were **“called”** to endure even unjust suffering and pain. It is clearly spelled out that Christ did not carry our physical

sicknesses and pain on the cross, but our sins!

(b) As a matter of fact, if you continue to read on into *I Peter 4:12*, Peter explains: “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the *painful trial you are suffering*, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ (as *called!*).”

(e) Hebrews 12:5-13 tells us that all “*true sons*” of God “*endure hardship as discipline.*” Those who do not suffer this “*painful*” “*discipline*” in this way, are “*illegitimate children and not true sons.*”

(11) GOD STILL ANSWERS PRAYER WITH MIRACLES! BUT, YOU DON'T NEED THE FAITH HEALERS...JUST THE FAITH!

(a) *I Peter 1:5-7* tells us Christians “*suffer grief and all kinds of trials*” so that our “*faith may be proved genuine.*”

(b) *I Peter 5:6-11*: Once we have “*proven our faith genuine,*” and “*suffered a little while,*” (*resisting the Devil and standing firm in the faith*), God promises to not let us suffer more than we are able, but instead, to “*restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast!*”

(c) So, we need someone to pray for us who has proven their faith genuine — *James 5:14-16*: “*Is any one of you sick? He should call the Elders of the Church to pray over him and anoint him with oil (elhion, or olive oil used for medicinal purposes as in *Luke 10:34*) in the name of the Lord. And the prayer (not the oil or medicine) offered in faith (if that faith has been proven genuine) will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned (must repent of sins before you can be healed), he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other (don't need to be an Elder, just need a genuine faith) so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*”

(12) IF YOU WANT TO BE PHYSICALLY HEALED, YOU MUST:

1- FIND A RIGHTEOUS MAN (LIKE A TRUE ELDER), WHOSE FAITH HAS BEEN PROVEN GENUINE.

2- HE MUST GIVE ANY MEDICINES REQUIRED, IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

3- HE MUST ASK FOR THE SICK TO BE SPIRITUALLY HEALED (FORGIVEN OF THEIR SINS). SO THE SICK MUST FIRST CONFESS THEIR SINS, AND BE REPENTANT OF THEM, BEFORE HE PRAYS.

4- THEN HE MUST PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THEIR BODY!

(13) REMEMBER, YOUR LIFE ON THIS EARTH IS A TEST!

*James 1:12: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; because when he has stood **the test**, he will receive the victor's crown, the life God has promised to those who love Him."*

3. SO, IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, but a true prophet or teacher from God —

A. I Corinthians 4:6 commands: *"Do not go beyond what is written (in the original New Testament Scriptures). Then you will not take pride in one man over against another."*

(1) A true prophet will always back his words with **Book, Chapter, and Verse, and will never **explain away Scripture**, or tell you God told him something that either **contradicts what is already in the Bible**, or is **not written anywhere in the Bible!****

(2) GOD WILL NOT GIVE ANY MORE NEW REVELATIONS!

*Revelation 22:18,19: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone **adds anything to them**, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone **takes words away** from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the Tree of Life and in the Holy City, which are described in this book."*

(3) Hebrews 13:8,9 warns: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings."*

4. A TRUE PROPHET KNOWS AND OBEYS I Timothy 4:11-16: *"Command and teach these things...Until I come, devote yourself to the **public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching**...Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them...**Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**"*