







## The Apostle Who Cried Wolf







## "To warn men of their danger is the kindest office of love"

(quote from Charles Simeon 1759–1836) (*Expository Outlines of the Whole Bible*, Zondervan, 14:520)

## NAME CALLING

- "Serpents...a generation of vipers" (Matt. 23:33)
- "Foxes in the desert" (Ezek. 13:4)
- "Men of corrupt minds...reprobate [void of judgment]" (II Tim. 3:8)
- "Dogs" and "evil workers" (Phil. 3:2)
- "Whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within *full of dead men's bones*, and of *all uncleanness*" (Matt. 23:27)
- "Blind guides" (vs. 24)
- "Hypocrites" (vs. 13–15, 23, 25, 27, 29)

#### NARROW PATH

Matthew 7:12-14 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and <u>narrow</u> is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

## **RAVENING WOLVES**

Matthew 7:15–18 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's 🚒 clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their 🗸 fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Strong's Greek Dictionary 727.  $\alpha \rho \pi \alpha \xi$  harpax har'*pax* from 726; rapacious:—extortion, ravening<sup>6</sup>.

## HOW TO SPOT A WOLF WHAT BIG EYES YOU HAVE GRANNY!





Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. 7

#### **BY THEIR FRUITS**

Matthew 7:19–23 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know **them.** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

## FRUITS

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

## HEAR & DO

 Matthew 7:24–29 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon **a rock:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

#### SHEEP AMONG WOLVES

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

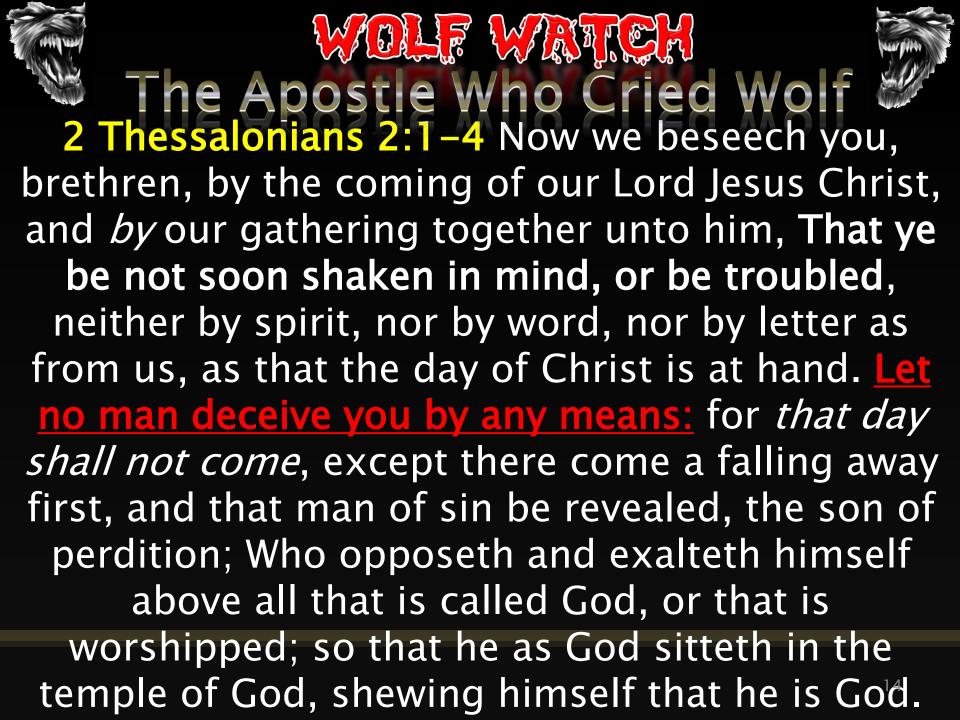
Luke 10:2–3 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

## **BE ALERT!**

Matthew 24:3-5 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

#### BEWARE! BE WARY! BE AWARE!

**Colossians 2:6–10** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:



## **MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS**

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will *let*, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

## **MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS**

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

#### **GRIEVOUS WOLVES**

Acts 20:28-31 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

## **FALSE PROPHETS**

Jeremiah 23:20-22 The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But <u>if</u> they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

## FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**FALSE PROPHETS & TEACHERS** 2 Peter 2:1–3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

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## **DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**

1 Timothy 1:3–4 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do,

## **DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**

2 John 1:9–11 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

#### LAW OF LOVE

1 Timothy 1:5–7 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

#### LAW CONVICTS NOT SAVES

**1 Timothy 1:8–10** But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 24

#### ANOTHER CHRIST, SPIRIT, GOSPEL

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth <u>another Jesus</u>, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive <u>another spirit</u>, which ye have not received, or <u>another gospel</u>, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

## ANOTHER GOSPEL

Galatians 1:6-8 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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.

#### LOOKS LAMBISH – SPEAKS DRAGON

You see the devil is very sly. There are many warnings about our adversary that we would all be wise to remember.

- 1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking <u>whom he may</u> <u>devour</u>:
- Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

#### WELL DISGUISED FALSE APOSTLES

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. 28

## The Apostle Who Cried Wolf

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Charles Spurgeon: "Those who do away with Christian doctrine are, whether they are aware of it or not, the worst enemies of Christian living. The godliness of Puritanism will not long survive the sound doctrine of Puritanism. The coals of orthodoxy are necessary to the fire of piety"

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John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

## STUDY – SHUN – CALL OUT

2 Timothy 2:15–18 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But <u>shun</u> profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and <u>Philetus;</u> Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

#### TRY – TEST–COMPARE

**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.

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

## MARK & AVOID

Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

#### MARK & DELIVER

1 Timothy 1:18–20 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

## REBUKE

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.











LATTER DAYS 1 Timothy 4:1–2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

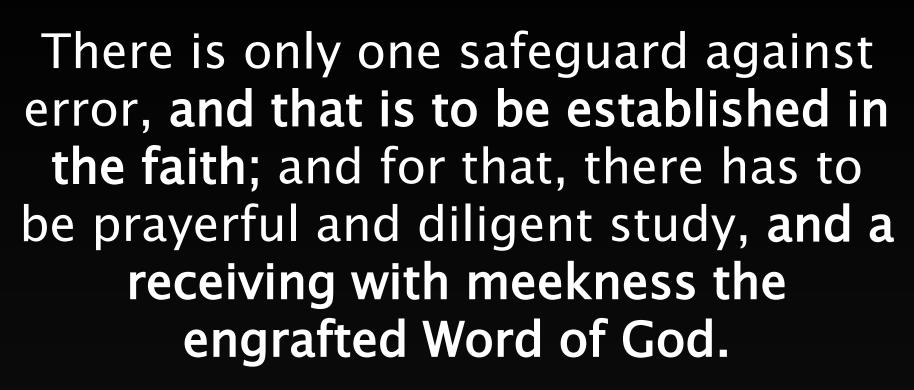
2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 38

## **OUR TIMES**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**OUR TIMES** 2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.





**A.W. Pink** The Attributes of God, Baker, p. 22.

#### What should we do about it? How can we escape the danger of false teaching?

1.) Love the truth. The people who are most likely to accept error are the people who are not sufficiently dedicated to the truth. (no love of truth)

2.) Study God's word diligently. The way to recognize error is to compare it to the truth (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17).

Are you living a faithful life as a Christian?

## What should we do about it?

How can we escape the danger of false teaching? (cont'd)

- 3.) Honestly examine ourselves ... including every doctrine and practice before we accept it (2 Cor. 13:5; I Thess 5:21).
- 4.) Let God's word be the standard for all our spiritual decisions (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9; etc.)



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