

# Danger's Facing the Church - Outside

- *For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.** 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. Acts 20:29-31*
- Savage wolves from outside – You hear them, you know they are there and you try to protect the sheep.
- We preach against the errors around us. The false teachings of those who preach in denominations.
- Rapture; Immorality; MDR; Work, organization, worship and becoming a member of the church.

# Danger's Facing the Church - Inside

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- Men from among yourselves (elders at Ephesus).
- Over time the faithful and trustworthy can be corrupted.
- Or, corrupt men can deceive and appear qualified.
- Elders, preachers and teachers within the church. These are the wolves in sheep's clothing.
- Even members can go from house to house and corrupt the brethren.

# Dangers Facing the Church - Inside

- ***Beware*** of false prophets, who come to you ***in sheep's clothing***, but ***inwardly they are ravenous wolves***. Mt 7:15
- Beware – A command to pay attention, give heed and always be aware of the risk. Be vigilant!
- ***Be sober, be vigilant***; because ***your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour***. 1Pet. 5:8
- As long as they are outside we feel some security.
- This threat is more sinister.
- You protect the sheep in a secure place, but in the morning the sheep are dead with a sheepskin lying in the corner.
- A wolf in sheep's clothing is a false teacher who was a faithful brother and friend, but changed or an evil man who knows how to feign righteousness.

# Danger's Facing the Church - Inside

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- For 3 years
- to warn everyone
- With tears
- I never ceased
- Night and day
- This is a great example of how to **beware.**
- Never Cease! Warning Everyone! Night and Day!
- If the inspired Paul did this, it is an example for us.



# Dangers facing the Church - Inward

- *I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints**. 4 For certain men have **crept in unnoticed**, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men**, who **turn the grace of our God into lewdness** and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 3-4*
- Although outside, they creep in unnoticed (wolves in sheep's clothing). A member, preacher, elder, teacher.
- Part of contending earnestly for the faith is being aware, watching for and being prepared to contend and fight.
- Something to never cease to warn against night and day!
- We must beware! There are wolves in sheep's clothing.
- If we are not always aware the damage can be done before we know it and can never be fixed.

# By Their Fruits ... You Will Know

- *1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** ... 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 **They are of the world.** Therefore **they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.** 6 **We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.** 1Jn 4:1, 4-6*

- Beware = Do not believe but test... Never let your guard down. There are many, without and within.
- Those of the world speak as of the world (No Scripture)
- We (apostles and prophets) are of God (Scripture). If we hear them, we are of God. If we don't hear – not of God

# Testing for False Prophets

- *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. “ Mt. 28:20”*
- *“We are of God” – “Teaching all Jesus’ commands”*
- *He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.*
- *By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*
- *If we observe all things Jesus commanded in the 27 NT books written by His apostles and prophets we are of God.*
- *If we go onward ... we don't have God*
- *If we abide in His word we are his true disciples of truth.*
- *Seamless and clear.*
- *Follow Scripture = of God. Don't follow it = not of God.*

# Testing For False Prophets

- *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1Cor. 1:10-11*
- Truth is exclusive.
- In Math there is always one right answer and all students must speak the same thing.  $2+2=4$  is the only right answer
- If students don't speak the same thing and there is only one answer ... everyone else is wrong.
- That is not offensive; It is the nature of truth.
- There is always only one answer if it is truth.
- God created Math and He created Scripture. Both are Truth
- If they don't speak the same thing ... It is error, not truth.



# Why Can't We Be One?

- *For you see your calling, brethren, that **not many wise** according to the flesh, **not many mighty**, **not many noble**, are called. 27 But God has **chosen the foolish things of the world** to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen **the weak things of the world** to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and **the base things of the world** and the **things which are despised** God has chosen, and the **things which are not**, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 1Cor. 1:26-30*
- When man rejects the foolish, weak, based, despised, and non-existent things God placed in the gospel.
- It is still absolute truth because God said it.
- Those who accept it will always speak the same thing.
- Those who can't accept it become the false prophets.

# Absolute Truth

- *If anyone speaks, let him **speak as the oracles of God**. If anyone ministers, let him do it as **with the ability which God supplies**, that **in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1Pet. 4:11*
- *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them**. Eph 2:10*
- *Be diligent to **present yourself approved to God**, a worker who does **not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**. 2 Tim 2:15-16*
- *If it is in the Scripture, but it doesn't make sense, it is a test. If it seems weak, foolish or is despised ... it is a test*