



REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Weekly Bible Study

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Key Passage: Matt. 7:15-23

Though there are a lot of Folks in the Church today that wont even consider this, simply because they don't want to be viewed as Judgmental, There Are False Prophets Among us today.

The Lord Jesus told us to beware of false prophets.

They must have been around at all times. The Lord would not warn us of that which does not exist, therefore critical observations are indeed necessary. Thus we must not be *indifferent* to their existence.

The Lord's command, "**Beware of false prophets**" involves a watchful attitude of the true believer. It explains Matt 7:1, "Judge not," which means: Do not judge superficially. The fact that a person labels himself as a prophet or spokesman for God does not necessarily mean that he truly speaks God's revelation.

And remember before love "believes all things" a person must find out whether those "things" are true (1 Cor 13:6,7).

Do not judge others if you yourself are at greater fault. Take the plank out of your own eye before you attempt to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Consider for a moment, you need clear vision if you are going to be a corrective surgeon.

Be redemptive in spotting false prophets. Seek to redeem them. Seek to **rescue those whom they are leading astray.**

We Are Responsible to Recognize False Prophets, it is not an option. A believer must be responsible for himself. The command is direct: "Beware" in Greek is **proséchete** in the active imperative. Do it yourself. Do not think that it is somebody else's responsibility. In the day of judgment we will account for our own decisions in life. 2 Cor 5:10 says, "For we must all [**pántes**, each one individually and all of us collectively--not a single one being exempt] appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone [**hékastos**, each one as an individual] may receive the things done in the body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

What Constitutes Some Prophets as False?

This command of Christ is related to Matt 7:13,14, which teaches that:

Man must himself enter through a narrow gate. This means that there is only individual salvation. Each one enters on his or her own volition (John 3:16). No one else can do it for you. Faith is personally exercised or personally rejected (John 3:15,18,36). One may ask, can there be no family salvation? What about Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." Does not that mean that when the head of a household believes all are automatically saved? No. What it means is that the entire family has also better opportunity of believing.

Any "prophet" meaning religious teacher, who teaches that salvation is possible through any other way than personal belief on Christ is possibly a false prophet. Salvation is possible only one way. The gate is presented as narrow, which means: Only one at a time can pass through. That the means of salvation is one through personal faith in Christ (John 3:15-18; Acts 4:12).

It is not through what we have or can do to help ourselves but by accepting what Christ has done for us (Eph 2:8-10) Anyone who teaches that man is intrinsically good in himself and can pull himself up is a false prophet (Rom 3:23).

The way of Christ is not the broad way. It is not a way that accommodates everyone no matter how they claim entrance. He who enters through a broad gate finds himself in the broad way which is not Christ's way. If you believe that you are a Christian through any other way than personal faith (John 10:1-7) you have fallen prey to false prophets.

If you believe that the necessary characteristics of the Christian way are affluence and prosperity, you have fallen prey to false prophets. Christ said that those are false prophets which tell you that His way is ***eurúchæros***, has plenty of room in it for everybody and for worldly abundance. Instead, His way is narrow, a way filled with afflictions (John 16:33).