

# **Beware of False Prophets and False Professions**

## **2024.05.05 Morning Sermon in Matthew 7:15–29**

<sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

<sup>28</sup>And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup>for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**Main idea:** hope only in Christ for forgiveness, and devote yourself entirely to Christ in holiness

**Introduction:** does Jesus use scare tactics? two portals and two paths, but now two types of prophets, two types of produce, and two plights

### **1. Two sorts of Prophets, v15, 28–29**

1. False prophets look like believers, v15a (“sheep’s clothing,” cf. 2Co 11:12–15. <sup>12</sup>But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. <sup>13</sup>For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.)

2. What comes out of their mouths will devour you, v15b  
(destruction, v13, 19; banishment, v23; disaster, v27)
3. They arise even in orthodox churches (cf. Ac 20:29–30 <sup>29</sup>For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.; 2Pet 2:1–3, 18–21 <sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup>And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup>By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. [...] <sup>18</sup>For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup>While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. <sup>20</sup>For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup>For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.)
4. Jesus is the True Prophet, Who calls and establishes all true prophets, v28–29.

## 2. Two sorts of Produce, v16–20

1. Jesus has already exposed false/bad/lawless fruit by giving them an example of true teaching that was set over-against it.
  1. Superficial/limited “righteousness” that does not proceed from love, 5:21–26
  2. Toleration of sin in the heart and of the remnants of the old man, 5:27–30
  3. Permission of divorcing and of remarriage for the unlawfully divorced, 5:31–32
  4. Taking vows lightly by taking them about light things or in light ways, 5:33–37
  5. Taking revenge rather than finding opportunities for the gospel, 5:38–42
  6. Indulging bitterness or hostility rather than loving one’s enemy and doing good to him, 5:43–48

7. Religion that is external for earthly reward, rather than spiritual for the reward of God Himself, 6:1–24
8. Trust in self, which leads to worry or judgmentalism, 6:25–7:12
2. The fruit is important not only for identification purposes (v16a, 20), but because hearers should be gathering fruit for themselves (v16b, 19)
  1. Preaching is Christ’s appointed means to make you fruitful (v17a), so you must trust that He will bless your sitting under them unto good fruit (v18a) and conscionably hear the Word to that end
  2. You must not expect good fruit (v17b, 18b) by listening to preachers whom He has not called and/or who do not preach authoritatively from His authority. And if you think you have it, beware of being self-deceived.
  3. If you are not bearing the fruit of holiness, you are in danger of Hell

### 3. **Two Plights, v21–27**

1. Things that do not necessarily assure salvation from destruction
  1. Comfort in numbers. “Many” will say to Me...
  2. A perception of a personal relationship. “Lord, Lord.” They think they know Him, but He testifies that He has not known them.
  3. Accurate theology. “In Your Name”—emphatic word order in the original, all three (!) times.
  4. Impressive works. Prophecy, wonders, exorcisms. (“Many,” even in the pulpits!)
  5. Even hearing His Words. You can sit under a true preacher but still be a false hearer, v26
2. Things that accompany salvation.
  1. Trusting even more in His knowing us than in our knowing Him. Building upon HIM HIMSELF as foundation.
  2. Transformation into keeping His law in the way that He has described. i.e. BUILDING upon the foundation.

3. Building by hearing true prophets (those He calls/sends, through whom HE speaks) and heeding HIS Word in their mouths.

**Conclusion:** Do not suffer eternal disaster. Beware false prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. Hope entirely in Christ's knowing you (5:1–16). And from Him, and by His means, bear the fruit of keeping His law from the heart (5:17–48). Having Him as your reward (6:1–24). Trusting Father to provide whatever you need (6:25–7:12). He sends you preachers to teach you this, and using them, He produces His fruit in your life.

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Matthew 7 verses 15-29. These are God's words. Beware of false prophets. Who come to you in sheep's clothing? But inwardly. They are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from Thorn bushes. Or figs from thistles. Even so every good tree Bears, good fruit.

But a bad tree Bears, bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear. Bad fruit. Nor can a bad tree bear. Good fruit. Every tree. That does not bear good fruit. Is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, By their fruits, you will know them. Not everyone who says to me, Lord Lord.

Shall enter the Kingdom of But he who does the will of my father in Heaven. Will say to me. In that day, Lord. Lord. Have we not prophesied in your name? Cast out demons. In your name. And done many wonders. In your name. And then I will declare to them.

I never knew you. Depart from me. You, who practice? Lawlessness. Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine. And does them. I will liken him to a wise man. Who built his house on the Rock? On the rain to send. The floods came. And the winds blew and beat on that house.

And it did not fall. For it was founded on the Rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of mine. And does not do them. Will be like a foolish man. Who built his house on the sand? And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house.

And it fell. And, Was its fall. And so it was when Jesus had ended these sayings. That the people were astonished at his teaching. For he taught them as one having Authority. And not as describes. Amanda sends this reading of gods, inspired and inerrant work. We Rejoice that, He blesses the preaching, which he sends forth to accomplish his will.

Please be seated.

There is not much. Preaching of warning. Of Destruction. Of being disowned by the Lord Jesus Christ. And banished by the Lord Jesus Christ. I never knew you. Depart from me. Of. Every tree that does not bear. Good, fruit is cut down and Thrown into the fire. There's not much preaching like that.

In many churches today. Where the Lord has granted to us. And when the Lord has granted to us, To live. And this is alarming. Because that means that the preaching that is in many churches. Today is not like the preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. Imagine, if you will.

Two men. In the house. And it is burning down. And one comes in. And he urgently and forcefully, convincingly. Tells them that if they do not leave this house, if they do not exit by the door where the fire has not yet, come and take the path. That leads safely to life.

They will be destroyed and they will burn. And one man being brought to his senses. Is rightly alarmed but not just alarmed, but informed. And he takes the right exit and he goes out that door. He comes and he looks back. As he sees. House from which he has been delivered.

And he says, thank you. I was so comfortable. I was not even aware. That I was about to perish. Thank you for being so urgent. But the other,

The stupor of sleep. Or perhaps in our culture. Too well known now. Circumstance. Uh, having one's mind altered by drugs. And sin is the worst sort of drug. It deeply affects the mind and distorts reality. Says. That person with their scare tactics. I love this house. I love this room.

And if I were going to walk out of this room, I would take that door. With the Blazing hot handle. And, Complains to himself about those fear mongerers. And their warnings. There are warnings of hell and their warnings of false churches and false prophets. And false professions of False conversions.

To Christ and Christianity. But that is how the Lord Jesus concludes. The greatest sermon that we know of ever to have been preached. Is with this warning. About false prophets. And false professions of And he does it in a way that Breaks down easily into these or readily into these three headings.

First, he tells us about two sorts of prophets in verse 15. Which is affirmed. By the people's response to him in verses 28 through 29. For Jesus is a different sort of preacher. Then they have heard before. And so, we'll hear in the first place about two sorts of prophets.

And because many of the false prophets. Appear at first to be true. The Lord Jesus gives a secondary long-term way of Discerning. If in fact they are true. If in fact they are being used by the Lord Jesus himself to make you hear him and respond to him. And that long-term way is their fruit, their produce.

And so in the second place, we'll hear about two sorts of produce. In verses 16 through 20, and this is important. Because we need to know what kind of produce to be looking for. Not just in those who preach. But in ourselves as those who gather fruit from them, That by the Lord giving us good fruit in our lives.

We may know ahead of time and not be surprised in that day. That our plight. Our end is not life and entering the kingdom and the enjoyment of God. But rather are those who thought That was our plight but we received the other one. The destruction and the fire, the disowning.

And the banishment and the disaster. Because there are only two ways. That your life in this age comes to an end. And a new beginning in the Eternal age. And it is necessary that you know which one is yours. Before you come to the end of this life. You do not know.

If you are even now, Coming to the end. Of this life. So, first two sorts of prophets. Says, beware of false prophets. This is actually not something new for the, among the people of God, for as long as there have been true prophets, there have also been false prophets and now we cannot apply the test that the Lord gave his people under the Old Testament because his preachers.

Now, do not do future telling Easy to tell, who is a false prophet, and the Lord told his people this However else good their preaching. Sounds if they say that something, if they say in the Lord's name, that something is going to come to pass. And it doesn't They are a false prophet.

They are not sent by the Lord. You don't have to heed their word. And indeed, they are to be excommunicated and the Civil magistrate in Israel, doing his job, because they are attempting to put their false prophecy. Their soul, destroying prophecy on others. They were even to be executed But the Lord's preachers.

Now, preach a word that has been completed. The many things that Jesus had left to say to Disciples. On the night that he was betrayed. Have been completed to them by the spirit whom he sent for that purpose. And so praise God. A preacher with a completed Bible. Has everything that he may preach.

But we can still reject as false and easily, so hopefully. Um, derisively. So Because their predictions mock themselves. All of these Wicked and false prophets in the church who make these prognostications and come out of the Woodworks. Things like eclipses, And sometimes false prophets are like those. In the day of Jeremiah.

And these false prophets are more dangerous. Because they look like Believers. They come in sheep's clothing. In Jeremiah's day, they prophesied in the name of the Lord. And they prophesied upon the covenantal identity with God as the people of God. And they prophesied upon the the ground of God's presence with his people in the temple.

And upon all of these apparently solid theological grounds. They preached peace in the name of the Lord. And there are many today who are false prophets. They have not been sent by Christ and they do not preach the word of Christ, but they say many things that Christ does say in his word.

And they, they Proclaim peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. But they do not Proclaim. Entering by the narrow gate. They do not Proclaim the necessity of abandoning all sin, and abandoning all trust and self. And coming humiliated as those who have nothing but wickedness, to a God who alone has righteousness for them entirely and alone in Jesus Christ.

And so there are many today. Who just as in the days of Jeremiah. Preached. Peace, peace. When there was no peace. They they preached in the name of Yahweh. In the name of the Lord, but the Lord had not sent them. And this continues today. Jesus warns them. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing on the outside?

They look. Not just like two Christians but also true preachers. True pastors. It's easy. To dismiss. To identify as a false prophet, anyone who calls himself, a gay Christian. We know that. Our sin is no longer our identity and anyone who identifies himself, like that is in the category.

That First Corinthians 6 says, is not inheriting the kingdom. And then for someone to be converted and cult, he must be able to say of himself. What the Apostle says to those Corinthians who had been saved such were some of you, it should be easy for you. To reject out of hand.

Anyone who claims to be a pastor or a preacher? But locks away, chromosome. Because, The Lord who gave us our chromosomes. This is the one who says. I do not allow another a woman to teach or to have authority over a man. And what makes a profit true. Is not how true their words seem to us.

Or how effective their words feel to us. What makes a profit true? Is they're sent by Jesus. And they say what Jesus says. And if you can make, I do not allow a woman. To mean, I allow a woman Then you can make anything in the Bible. To mean its opposite.

And so they are neither sent. Are there words from Christ? But there are those False prophets who are not immediately. Obvious.

There are those prophets who appear. As if they were even Apostles. There are those. Uh false prophets who appear, like Satan himself, an angel of Light in second Corinthians 11. Verses 12-15 the Apostle says, but what I do I will also continue to do that. I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire, an opportunity to be regarded.

Just as we are in the things of which they boast There are always those who know that there are true prophets from the Lord Jesus. And they want to be regarded as true prophets of the Lord Jesus. He continues in verse 13 for such our false prophets, deceitful workers.

Acting as if they've been hired or called to this work, but they haven't transforming themselves into Apostles of Christ and no wonder for Satan himself. Transforms himself into an angel of Light. And this may well mean not just, A glorious spirit being who takes on a visible appearance. The way those who are by Nature angels but it may be the similar use as to the angel of the church act in the seven letters in Revelation two and three, which is talking about the messenger sent to that church the preacher of that church.

And so Satan himself uses and employs. Pastors of churches that are considered by their congregations. To be Orthodox and Christian He does not appear outwardly. A wolf. So there are false prophets and even false prophets that look like Believers. But you must distinguish. You must distinguish because what comes out of their mouths will devour you, but inwardly, they are ravenous wolves.

And as we see in verses 21 through 23, many of these wolves, don't even know that they are wolves. Because they say Lord Lord in your name, did we not prophesy? It's the first thing in the list immediately following this part of the sermon. And yet, what is inside them?

Will devour them and will devour you. If you hear and heed their words, And what does this devouring look like? Well, verse 13. The way that leads to destruction. Verse 19. Being cut down and thrown into the fire. Verse 23. Being disowned. I never knew you. Verse 23 being banished depart from me.

Verse 27, disaster. That house fell and great. Was its fault. So it is in this kindness to That the Lord Jesus warns that there are false prophets. And that they are not to be trifled with. Because great destruction. Is what comes by way of their mouth, their eyes even from within Orthodox churches.

A prophet a pastor, a preacher. Is not necessarily true because he stands in the pulpit of a church that has a Biblical confession of And because he stands in the pulpit of a church where for Generations. The gospel has been preached. The spirit has applied Christ's Redemption has been enjoyed.

In his. Um, meeting with time with the effusion Elders. Says to them in Acts 20 verses 29-30 for. I know this that after my departure Savage wolves. Will come in among you. Not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves. He's speaking to the Elders of the Church of Ephesus.

Men will rise up. Speaking perverse things. Slightly Twisted. Slightly crooked. To draw away disciples after themselves. Second Peter chapter 2. Verses one through three, but there were also false prophets among the people even as there will be false teachers among you. He's writing to an Orthodox Church. He's writing to a church.

That was blessed by God to be one of the first to receive this Apostolic letter inspired by the Holy Spirit part of Holy Scripture. And he says there will be false teachers among you. Who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them and bring on themselves with destruction and many.

Will follow their destructive ways. So, there are false prophets who are Widely successful. Many will follow their destructive ways because of whom the way of Truth. Will be blasphemed by covetousness. They will exploit you with deceptive words. They will know. What to preach in order, not to offend people.

In order to grow the membership, they will exploit. Our willingness? To hear easy things, but not hard.

Will follow their destructive ways because of Whom the way of Truth will be blasphemed by covetousness. They will exploit you with deceptive words for a long time. Their judgment has been not been idle and their destruction does not Slumber. And by implication, he's saying it does not appear that they are under judgment.

It does not appear that they are going to destruction. It does not appear that those who listen to them are going to destruction. That judgment and that destruction are real and they are not idle. Later, he is still speaking about them in verse 18. He says for when they speak great swelling words.

Beautiful. Sermons. Uplifting. Make you feel that? Great swelling words of emptiness. They Allure through the lusts of the flesh. Through lewdness. The ones who have actually escaped. From those who live in error. So, genuine Believers. Now he's saying Can be led astray by these false prophets. Who speak to them things that Encourage them to indulge the flesh.

For instance. Telling them that sanctification is a fairy tale. And that we all just kind of hold hands and commiserate over how sinful. We still are and that there's no such thing as growth and Grace and maturity in the faith and progress in Holiness.

Well, they promised them Liberty, they themselves. Are slaves of corruption. For by whom a person is overcome by him. Also, he has brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world, Through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ. They are again. Entangled in them and overcome.

The latter end is worse for. Than the beginning. Now, these are not True. Believers, are they? These are they who hear a lot of good Doctrine, and they hear a lot about, right, living. And they stack, those things up together and they are operating not by grace. But by their own



effort by their own wisdom by their own flesh, and then a false prophet comes along and enables them to indulge that flesh.

And they're like those in Hebrews chapter 6. They enjoyed some of the common operations of the spirit, they were in church. Uh, in the past where people were genuinely converted. They got to test of the powers of the world to come. There are new creatures all around them. The body life is a body life in which many are genuinely transformed and they themselves have some outwardly pressed Conformity.

To the way their churches. In this particular case, They hear a false teacher. Who does not teach repentance and sanctification and holy living. Who teaches you can have Jesus as Savior? Without having Jesus as Master.

And their latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them, not to have known the way of righteousness. Than having known it to turn. From the holy commandment. That was delivered to And so there are two sorts of prophets. But, praise God.

There are not then, just the false prophets. There are the true prophets. There are the prophets who have sent been sent by Jesus. There are the prophets, the preachers who preach with an authority that does not come from themselves. They are not personally raised up above other men in their own personal Authority.

But they preach with authority. Because they are under orders. They are under a master. They do not get to say what they want. They must say, whatever he says. And Jesus is the one who has given us all of the scripture. You remember how he distinguished himself already from the scribes and Pharisees?

He says you have heard it said and he quotes to them things that they've heard in synagogue. From people reading and teaching the Bible. And then he says, but I say to you and he opens How deeper and richer? The scripture is how much more demanding. God's law is how much more sure his salvation is.

How much more? Uh, glorious. Is the difference that he makes in the life of those whom he saves. He says you have heard it said, but I say to you And there are those whom the Lord by his authority, teaches them. By whom they hear the sayings. Of Jesus.

Jesus is the true Prophet. And only Those whom he sends and only. Whose words, he is blessing, and only those whom he keeps faithful to the scriptures. Our true prophets. So there are two sorts of profits. But what if you can't tell at first And sometimes you can't tell at first.

How do we know? Because he says, by their fruits, you will know them. That describes something that takes a while to pan out. Takes a while to present itself. Ah, not as good at plant identification. Um, a daughter of mine. I have to wait and see what grows on it sometimes.

And then I could tell you what kind of plant it is. By what grows on it. The Lord Jesus is here saying, Something similar. That if you can't tell at first don't assume That they are true prophets. Just because they seem to be at first, You need to watch to see the fruit that is on them.

And in particular, you need to watch because you are gathering fruit from them. So first you need to watch. For the fruit that is on them. When he says by their fruits, you will know them. He doesn't say, Um, you can tell by what comes from their Ministry and go ahead and use your standards to evaluate what comes from their Ministry.

That is utter rubbish, utter nonsense, but that is how people judge Ministries by fruit. Whether or not, you know, whether or not, you know, that word uplifting Um, or that other word? They make themselves the judge by how it makes them feel. Or what? They feel empowered to do.

That's, that's not what Jesus is talking about. When he says by their fruits, he's already exposed in this sermon. What the bad fruit is, it's the fruit of lawlessness. Because by their fruits, you will know them here in verses 16 through 20. Is matched up with, I never knew you depart from me you workers of lawlessness.

You workers without the law or against the law in verse 23. And yet, there are many who style themselves keepers of the law and preachers of the law that are like the scribes and the Pharisees. And so what are some of these fruits? Whether in the mouth, Or especially in the Of the false prophets, what are the bad fruits of false prophets and the bad fruits that emerge in the lives of others?

Here we go. Back to chapter five. I hope you can remember that far back. And you remember Many of the things that they have heard said, were true, so far as they went, Or true in a different context. And so sometimes, You find out that it's bad fruit. Because, You hear a lot of things that the Bible says, but some important things never get said.

And it takes a while to discover that this is bad fruit. That this is false fruit. And so what are some, some of those things that he's exposed? As bad fruit or Lawless fruit. Well, in chapter 5 verses 21 through 26. A superficial or limited so-called righteousness. Uh, that does not proceed from love.

We're in chapter 5, verses 27-30. Tolerating sin in the heart. And the remnants of the old, man. Or chapter 5:31-32. Permissiveness. Towards divorce. And remarriage adulterers remarriage. For the unlawfully divorced. Many and even in the pulpits, Unlawfully divorced. Unlawfully remarried. Jesus says, I didn't send them. Don't listen to them.

It's bad fruit. Those who take vows lightly. Chapter 5 verses 33-37. Taking vows about light things. Swearing all the time. Or in light ways, swearing by small things. Chapter 5 verses 33 through 37. Those who Take revenge. And Harbor, bitterness. Rather than finding an opportunity for the gospel. To do for those who are oppressing them and attacking.

To love them and leave room. For the Vengeance of the Lord. Chapter 5 verses 43-48. Those who indulge bitterness or hostility rather than loving one's enemy. And doing good to him. Chapter 6, verses 1 through 24. Religion. That is external for Earthly reward. The preacher. Or Christian, or the congregation.

That is doing things in order to be seen by men. Rather than Being light where the Lord has placed them. Because the Lord has placed them there and the Lord has made them light. And doing it, especially in the secret place of the heart. And that whole complex, Of things and the external.

Religion in chapter 6, verse 1, through 24. Trusting in oneself. Which leads either to worry. Chapter 6, verse 25-34. Or to judgmentalism of others. Chapter 7, verses 1 through 12. Where you credit yourself? What? What the Lord has done. Or what the Lord hasn't actually done. But you credit yourself anyway.

And so there are all these sorts of bad fruit. That do not always present themselves immediately. But they have to grow a bit. Before you get a test. And whether you are tasting it

in the character. The. Of the one who is preaching. Or whether you taste that it's the outcome in your own life.

Which might also be your fault as we're going to hear. Uh, in verses 21 through 27. But those are bad fruits. Now, this fruit is important. Not only for identification purposes. Verse 16, you will know them by their fruits and then the inclusio at the end of verse 20, by their fruits, you will know them.

But, This is important because hearers should be gathering fruit for themselves. Later in verse 16, do men, gather grapes? From Thorn bushes or fig figs from thistles. And you need to know what kind of fruit is growing on you, because you also are a tree In this analogy, in this metaphor, And, Every tree that does not bear good fruit.

Is cut down and thrown into the fire. There is no such thing as the carnal Christian. If you are in your flesh. If you are not bearing any good fruit. You are not a Christian. And if you die in that condition, You will be thrown. Into the fire. Is he preaching as Christ's appointed?

Means to make you bear good fruit, even so every good tree Bears, good fruit. If you hear these sayings of his If you sit under a christ-cent preacher to hear Christ's words in the scripture, preached not in the The diligence and faithfulness of the preacher, not in the Discernment.

And sincerity of the hearer. But preached in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, which produces diligence and faithful faithfulness and heard by the grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, which produces discernment and soft-heartedness, but it's the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one. Who uses means to make you fruitful He is the one who.

Blesses us a good tree. Cannot bear. Bad fruit. If you're a Believer, Whatever unbelief remains in you and comes forth from you, whatever sin. Remains in you and comes forth from you. It is something that the Lord has destroyed in Christ and will finally, and fully be eliminated. That which comes from your formal cell former self is your enemy.

You are responsible for it, you still think it and you still feel it and you still say it. But it's not you, it's not you as you are in Christ. And you are to oppose it with all your will and all your might. As you depend upon the Lord Jesus, who praise God.

Opposes it with all his will and all his might and he will destroy. What is left from who you are outside of you outside of him. And if you are not in him, then he will destroy you. Because he still opposes your sin. With all his will. And all his might.

But if we think that we have good fruit, Then we need to be aware of being self-deceived. And because not only are these. Are there? These two sorts of produce but there are these two plights There are many things in verses 21 through 27. Uh, that Reveal. As almost Christians are revealed, someone who isn't a genuine believer.

As an almost Christian. And so consider all of these things. That do not necessarily identify someone. As having been given life from above, as having had the spirit poured out upon him and being given that new mind to believe into Jesus Christ. Things that do not necessarily assure. Salvation from destruction first.

Comfort in numbers. We already saw this with wide as the gate and Broad is the way and many Are those who go in by it, back in verse 13. But here again we have that very frightening word, many in verse 22, many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord and so forth.

So everything else in this list of things that do not necessarily assure salvation, things that are not necessarily indicators of real salvation. These are these are not outliers statistically. Insignificant few. Have all of these things that he is describing. And will be disowned. They will hear from Jesus. I never knew you.

And banished depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Now, they will not be banished. From his divine presence, and his Divine glory. From which burning Eternal destruction, come forever. Second Thessalonians chapter 1 but they will be banished from the presence of Christ, the god-man, the mediator, the Redeemer in whom we know the glory of God as the grace of God to us, they will be banished from the favorable presence.

Of the Redeemer. And so, there are going to be many. Many who thought they had a personal relationship? You start talking to them about the Lord's law, that which he produces in a Christian that that which he produces and someone whom he knows. If I knew you, you wouldn't have been a worker of lawlessness, but depart from me, I never knew you.

And you should have known that, because you're a worker of lawlessness. There are many. Whom you start talking to about the difference that Jesus makes in our lives and the Commandments that Define that difference and they say, oh hold on. Now. It's not a religion. You know, the rest of the saying, don't you?

It's a relationship. Well, it's a relationship that produces a religious difference. And if it doesn't, it's a relationship that exists only as a figment of your imagination. Says, many will say to me, Lord Lord, a perception of a personal relationship. They think they know him. And say, oh, I know the Lord.

I know the Lord. I call him Lord all the time. I have warm fuzzy feelings about him. I can work myself up into a frenzy. By singing my favorite song, ad nauseam, except for I don't get nauseated, just everyone else. A perception of a personal relationship with the Lord, does not necessarily indicate genuine salvation.

Accurate theology does not necessarily indicate genuine salvation. You can't see it. So well in the English here. They've they've smoothed it out for whatever reason, but the in your name is actually emphatic in all three instances. In your name, have we not prophesied. They say in your name. Cast out demons and in your name.

Done. Many wonders. They know. They know salvation is only in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They know that salvation is only covenantally in the Lord. They can use reformed Presbyterian ease. They're using it to Jesus. And yet they're perishing in their sin. You can quote and agree with.

Everything that the Westminster Confession of. Rightly exposites from the Bible. But still not have. What it describes from the Bible. What the Bible describes. So comfort in numbers, there are many that are like me. Boy, we just we all just we just have a peace. About our relationship and And we've we've done so much Bible study.

We know, salvation is only in the lord's name. You know, people like this. You might be.

Who has all these things? But has not Christ. About impressive Works. Not secret works. Not the changing of the heart to conform to God's law. Treasuring him in the secret. Place of the heart. Doing that which pleases him. Just because it pleases him, just because it's according to his word, enjoying him himself already is your reward, who is producing these things in you, so that when he works them in, you you praise him more.

You don't feel exalted in yourself. Impressive works. Prophesying. Wonders. Exorcisms.

Casting out of demons, evil spirits.

It is not surprising. That so many of the false preachers. Make claims to these very things.

And then, perhaps, Um, Well, I wouldn't say perhaps the most disturbing these other ones. Have been plenty disturbing, but even those Have. Heeded, the warning to beware of false preachers. They're sitting under true preachers. But they're not hearing by God's grace from the heart. What they? Verse 26, everyone who hears these sayings of mine.

And does not do them. But in the context, everyone who found their way to a true church, Everyone who sits under a Christ. Sent preacher. Who preaches Faithfully and truly? But they are not hearing what they hear.

So, there are many things. That do not necessarily indicate salvation. From destruction. What then are the things? That accompany salvation. Number one, verse 23. Being known by Jesus Christ. Remember that in John 10 from the class this morning. My sheep hear my voice. I, Our hope is not. And what we know of Christ.

Our hope is that he knows us. Our hope is that he has addressed us. Our hope, is that he saves. When we are when we are frightened, as we might be by a passage like this, we turn to him and we cry out none whom you know can be lost, Lord, Jesus none, whom you save can be lost.

Lord Jesus. There are so many things about me that I am tempted to put my hope in, but my hope is not in what I know, my hope is. And what, you know, my hope is not in what I do. My hope is in what you have done and what you do.

That which accompanies salvation is trusting even more in his knowing us than an hour, knowing him. Building upon him himself as that rock, that is the foundation. Not saying, I'm okay because I have heard these sayings of his But saying the only way that I could ever be, okay is if I am his, if I am built upon him, Trusting only in what Jesus has done.

The narrow gate. That's something that accompanies salvation, but trusting only in what Jesus done. Has done is always accompanied by walking in the confined way. The transformation that Jesus gives, there is no such thing as a Jesus who brings you to Faith in himself, but then does not make you.

Holy There is only one Christ who saves and he saves all the way he saves entirely. He doesn't leave anything out. And so, Things that accompany salvation include not just this trusting only in who he is and what he knows and what he has done. But it's also produces the fruit of this transformation.

Keeping his law in the way that he describes in chapter 5. Loving and treasuring and doing that, which you do. For him. And not to be seen by men. The the bulk of chapter six. Trusting that he is the one who gives you the righteousness that you need. He is the one who delivers you from the planks and the specs in your eyes end of chapter six.

And beginning of chapter seven, See, not only do they they don't just go to the Rock and stand there and say I'm on the Rock, I'll be saved when the flood comes. Yeah, stand in front of Wave, that's higher than your head, does not matter. What kind of rock you're standing on.

No, the ones he describes at the end they build a house on that rock. They are built up upon the Lord Jesus Christ. They build by hearing. True prophets and heeding Christ's words. In their mouths, those things. Accompany salvation. And so dear congregation. Receive. A pleading. And, Receive an urgent, plea and pleading Please do not suffer Eternal disaster.

Beware false prophets. Enter only by the narrow gate. Christ Alone. Who he is and what he has done. Hope entirely in his knowing you so that you are that blessed. One who is poor in spirit and whose mourning over your remaining sin. That blessed one who is lowly humble?

The meek, who will inherit the earth? Because you are a joint inheritor with Christ. It's his inheritance But it can be yours only in him. Because you are lowly and he is exalted. Hope entirely in his. Knowing you. And from him, and by his means, Bear. The fruit of keeping his law from the heart.

Not being satisfied with externals and lists that you can check off and appearing more righteous than someone next to you. But loving him, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, loving your neighbor as yourself, loving, even your enemy. Hating anything in your life that that your remaining sin takes a occasion of hating that remaining sin not tolerating any of it.

Treating righteousness and Holiness the way he treats it because it's his life in you and it's his changing you to, to his mind, by his word, that determines. How you see sin, and how you define it and how you react to it. Have him as your reward. Don't do anything.

Out of a desire that you would be seen by men. So that you already have their full reward, the moment that they see Trust father. To provide you with everything that you need. That's also one who gave Christ for you and gives Christ to you and applies Christ to you.

So that you become righteous. Like your father in Heaven is righteous, you become holy like the Lord who say your father is doing that. And he will give you the bread that you need today and he will give you whatever it is that you need to drink and whatever it is that you need to wear and whatever trouble.

You have on a day has has been selected for you by him. Sufficient. For the day is, is its own trouble. And he is the one delivering you from what remains in your eye. So that you are Self-Exalted above a brother, a judgmental towards him, but as someone who is being helped by father, You're even made useful as father, uses you, and helps your brother.

He sends you. Preachers to teach these things. And using his word. Not just in your ear. But by his Spirit, working in your heart. He gives you to enter by the gate that is Christ. And to walk in the confined way that is growing in Holiness and righteousness of heart and mind, and He produces fruit in your life.

So that, you know, that you're on the Rock and you know that you are being built. And then when the flood comes, it will not destroy you. But even as it did for Noah, That last day will be the means by which you are lifted up. And saved. Man, let's pray.

Lord Jesus. We thank you. For raising the alarm. But not just telling us of our danger. But pointing us to yourself. And even confirming to us that it is you. Who make your work effective to save? And so, we throw ourselves upon your mercy. And upon your power. And we ask that by your spirit, you would give us.

To respond. With with Understanding Mind. And warmed hearts and submissive Wills to you. Grant that we would not suffer disaster. Keep those who teach us. From being wolves. Grant

that they would be prophets sent by you. And used by you. Grant that your spirit would. Caused to be produced in our lives.

The fruit of the spirit Which is according to your own character. Our lord Jesus. When we ask it in your name, Amen.