

Beware of the Wolves

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Main Scripture Text: Matthew 7:15–23

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

MATTHEW 7:15

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Introduction

Take your Bibles and be finding Matthew chapter 7. We continue our study through the Sermon on the Mount, and we take up where we left off last week. Matthew chapter 7 and verse 15 begins with a warning. Jesus says, *“Beware of false prophets”—that’s a good word for today, isn’t it?—“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so”—Jesus says—“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. 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 everyone 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 unto 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.” (Matthew 7:15–23)

¶ Have you ever passed a house, or have been walking up to a house, wanting to knock on the door, and you see a sign that says, “Beware of the dog”? Have you ever seen that? What do you do? Well, you beware of the dog, don’t you? Where there is a sign there that says just, “Beware of the dog,” you stop right away, and you look around and wonder, “Should I go in there?” But, whatever, it sensitizes you. I want you to imagine walking up to a house and seeing a sign that says, “Beware of the wolf.” Now, just suppose, rather than having a dog in the yard, there is a wolf in the yard. I think you would do a double-take.¶

The title of our message today: “Beware of the Wolves.” That’s what Jesus is saying. And, these wolves have disguised themselves in sheep’s clothing. Early this morning I read a little bit more about wolves. I found out that wolves are known for their boldness. They are known for the fierceness of their attack. They were the most dreaded and hated enemy of the shepherd—not the lion, not the bear, but the wolf. As a matter of fact, the article that I read early this morning said that a wolf will kill for food, but once he gets a taste of blood, he goes into a frenzy and will kill far more than he can possibly eat. And, Jesus said that false prophets are like wolves, and Jesus said, “Beware.” Now, when Jesus says, “Beware,” then we ought to beware. And, Jesus says, “Not only are these wolves so dangerous; they are so deceptive. They come to you in sheep’s clothing.” Now, you cannot be wise and not beware. You see, the Lord has warned us. Many times, warnings have gone unheeded.

¶ Captain Smith was the captain of the Titanic. He received a message, a radio message, when the Titanic was on its maiden voyage, and that radio message said that they were entering into iceberg-laden waters. According to the account I read, Captain Smith took that message written on a piece of paper, crumpled it, shoved it into his pocket, and the Titanic went sailing on. And, when it sank, 1,490 people went to a watery grave in the icy North Atlantic.¶

¶ I read somewhere years ago about Sergeant Lockhart—Sergeant Joseph Lockhart. He was sitting at the radar at Pearl Harbor, and he noticed a squadron of airplanes coming. The day was December 7, 1941. He reported to his commanding officer, “I see some unidentified aircraft approaching.” Do you know what the commanding officer said? “Forget it.” And, three thousand of America’s best perished in that day of infamy.¶

Warnings—if there were ever a generation that needs to be warned about false prophets, it's this one. I mean, if ever, *if ever*, it's this one. And, Jesus is saying, “*Beware of false prophets.*” (Matthew 7:15) David Koresh is only one of many. For every David Koresh whose name you'll read in the newspaper, there are many names that you may not read about who have honeycombed this nation and this world—false prophets, our Lord says.

Remember this: that Satan is not opposed to religion. Satan is opposed to biblical Christianity. And, religion is one of Satan's chief arms. Satan comes against the Church in two basic ways.

A. Satan Comes Against the Church by Persecution

Satan comes against the Church by persecution. And, he's not above persecuting the Church; he's not above persecuting this church or any true New Testament church. But, many times, for Satan, persecution will not work. Many times, God's people, rather than folding up, stand up against persecution.

† I remember when we were in Romania. The pastor there of the great Second Baptist Church, the largest Baptist church in all Europe, told me, as we went past the church—he said, “You see all of these apartment buildings that are near our church?” He said, “Let me tell you how they got built.” He said, “Ceausescu, that maniacal, diabolical, ungodly, antichrist dictator, when he passed by the Second Baptist Church of Oradea one time, he looked over there and he saw the church. He asked his aide, ‘What is that?’ He said, ‘That's a Baptist church.’ He said, ‘Destroy that nest of insects.’ They said, ‘Well, Mr. Ceausescu, if we just destroy them, why, the world will hear about it. It will look bad for Romania. After all, we have won most favorite nation status.’ ‘Well,’ he said, ‘then hide it.’ And so, you know what they did? They built apartments all around the church and brought the people right to it—people coming to the Lord Jesus Christ and getting saved.”†

Many times, God cuts Goliath's head off with the sword that Goliath sharpened, amen? Sometimes the devil comes against the Church by persecution.

B. Satan Comes Against the Church by Infiltration

But, he has a better way to come against the Church: it is not persecution; it is infiltration. Put these verses in your margin. Here's the great danger to today's church. It is the infiltration of false prophets wearing sheep's clothing. Acts chapter 20, verses 28 and following: The Apostle Paul said to the Ephesian elders, to that wonderful church at Ephesus, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock*”—God's sheep—“*to all the flock, over 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.*” (Acts 20:28–

29)

Then the Apostle Paul said to those folks in Corinth, in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, beginning in verse 13—put this verse in your margin—2 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 13 and 14: *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ”—*that is, they are wearing sheep’s clothing—*“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”* (2 Corinthians 11:13–14) Satan is the captain of camouflage. He is the master of deceit. And so, again and again and again, the Bible warns us of false prophets. Our Lord Jesus said in this same book of Matthew that we are studying, in Matthew chapter 24 and verse 24: *“For there shall arise false Christs”—*that’s what David Koresh said that he was: the Messiah—*“There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”* (Matthew 24:24)

You know, every now and then, somebody will say, “Oh, the Bible is not true. The Bible is a bundle of blunders. The Bible is a book of lies, and I’ll tell you why it is…” They say that the Bible is not true because of all of these false religions, all of these false prophets, all of these fruit loops. Friend, let me tell you something: those people don’t prove the Bible not to be true; those people authenticate the Bible. If there were no false prophets, the Bible would not be true because the Bible says they’re coming. It is Jesus Christ who said the David Koreshes are coming. They are coming. *“Beware,”* (Matthew 7:15) He says. These things confirm and authenticate our faith.

So, there are three basic things I want you to learn this morning, as we look at this message under the title “Beware of the Wolves.” The very first thing I want you to see is the fleece they wear. The second thing I want you to see is the fruit they bear. The third thing I want you to see is the fate they share. Now, here’s what our Lord Jesus is telling us about these false prophets:

I. The Fleece They Wear

First of all, the fleece they wear. He says they *“come [wearing] sheep’s clothing.”* (Matthew 7:15) That is, they appear like part of the flock. Now, this is the disguise they wear. Now, what I want to do today is simply just rip away the disguise. What I want to do is to pull back the sheepskin and let you see the wolf beneath.

Now, false prophets come in three categories. There are three kinds of false prophets. If you just look for one kind, you’re apt to miss the other two. Wonderfully, God has given us a description of all three in one verse, so I don’t want you to miss that verse. Turn to it in the next to the last book in the Bible. We call it an “epistle.” It’s more like a postcard, it’s so small. It’s the little book of Jude. And look, if you will, in verse 11. Now, let me say this: that all of the book of Jude is about false apostles, false prophets, and apostates. That’s what it’s about. The book of Jude is a warning about false

prophets. But, happily and wonderfully he describes all three kinds in one verse—verse 11: *“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain”*—that’s one kind of false prophet—*“and ran greedily”*—underscore the word *greedily*—*“after the error of Balaam for reward”*—that’s another kind of false prophet—*“and perished in the gainsaying of Core”* (Jude 1:11)—that’s another kind of false prophet. Three kinds right there. All of them will be wearing sheepskin. But, I want us to look at them. What do they represent?

A. Cain: Those Who Pervert the Gospel

Cain, the first one, represents those who pervert the gospel. Now, pay attention. Who is Cain? Well, you remember that God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and then God gave them sons: Cain and Abel. Do you remember that story? And, the Bible says that Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a farmer; he was a tiller of the ground. And, there in Genesis chapter 4, verses 1 through 8, you have the story of two brothers. Two brothers went out to make two offerings. One brother offered to the Lord the firstlings of the flock. A perfect lamb was killed, and the blood of that lamb was offered to the Lord as an atonement for sin. The other brother came—you will remember the story—offered to God the fruit of his hands, of his work, the sweat of his face. This is what he offered to the Lord. And, what you have here are two brothers, two offerings, two religions, and two destinies. (Genesis 4:1–8)

Now Abel, as you will remember, offered the very best—the firstling of the flock to the Lord. Why? Because there, in the dawn of civilization, God was teaching the lesson that we see affirmed in Hebrews chapter 9 and verse 22, which is what? *“Without shedding of blood is no remission.”* (Hebrews 9:22) Isn’t that right? *“Without shedding of blood is no remission.”* (Hebrews 9:22) And, Hebrews 11:4 says, *“By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice.”* (Hebrews 11:4) Abel had faith in the blood. Never forget it. He had faith in the blood. The blood that we sang about this morning is not incidental; it is not accidental. It is fundamental; it is eternal. For the Bible says in 1 John 1:7: *“The blood of Jesus Christ [God’s] Son [cleanses] us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7)

Now, on the other hand, Cain offered the fruit of the ground. His offering was not based on blood, but the fruits and the flowers of his own effort. It may have been impressive. It may have been beautiful. It may have been costly. It may have looked like a county fair. There may have been beautiful flowers and fragrant herbs and the righteous fruits. But, God was not impressed. Why? You can’t get blood out of a turnip. My friend, *“without [the] shedding of blood is no remission.”* (Hebrews 9:22) What did Cain’s offering represent? Culture, not Calvary. Works, not grace.

Now, there are only two kinds of religion—pay attention—the true and the false. Now, we like to divide the world into Christianity, and Buddhism, and Islam, and Hinduism, rheumatism, and whatever. We even take Christianity and we subdivide

Christianity: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Catholic, and others. But, I want to say there are only really two kinds of religion: the way of Cain and the way of the cross. That's all. The way of the cross leads to heaven. The way of Cain leads to hell.

Now, there are many people today who are trudging to churches, sitting down and worshipping all over America, but did you know they will not hear salvation by the blood preached? And, many people will not say that that man preaching is a false prophet, but friend, he's gone the way of Cain. I don't care how many fruits and flowers there are there. I don't care how beautiful they are. I care not how grand the choir is. I care not how many good works they do in the neighborhood. I don't care if they are offering to God the works of their hands rather than the blood of the Lamb. That man is a false prophet. That's the way of Cain—those who pervert the gospel.

B. Balaam: Those Who Prostitute the Gospel

Now, what about the other man, Balaam? That's the second one that's mentioned there. Balaam represents, not those that pervert the gospel, but those who prostitute the gospel. You see, Balaam was orthodox. Many of the things that Balaam said were incredible. Who was Balaam? Well, Balaam was an apostate prophet. You can read his story in Numbers 22. The king of Moab was afraid of the Israelites. He couldn't figure out a way to overcome them. And then, he got this diabolical scheme. He thought to himself, "Well, maybe I can get their God to put a curse on them." And so, he said, "Well, who is a prophet that might put a curse on them?" Somebody said, "Well, Balaam, he knows all about that prophecy business and cursings and blessings."

Balak, the king of Moab, went to Balaam and said, "Listen, I want you to put a curse on Israel." Balaam said, "Are you crazy? Do you think I'm going to curse them? God says, 'Those who curse them I'll curse. And, those that bless them, I'll bless.' Do you think I'm going to put a curse on them?" Balak said, "I'll pay you." Balaam said, "You couldn't pay me enough to do that. No, thank you." And, Balak comes back and ups the annuity, and throws in some fringe benefits. And, after awhile, ol' Balaam gets to thinking: "Now, how can I do this? How can I serve God and rake off a few profits on the side? How can I do this?" And then, he said, "I'll tell you what, I can't curse them, but I'll tell you what, I'll tell you how you can get them to curse themselves." And, one of the most sinister—one of the most incredible—things that ever happened happened. He said to the king of Moab, "If you get them to sin, you won't have to curse them; I won't have to curse them; God will curse them." And, the daughters of Moab went in and began to flirt with the boys of Israel, and there was adultery, and fornication, and wickedness—the same thing that's going to cause God to curse America. And, my friend, the man of God would not stand up for purity and righteousness; and so, there

was a sensual feast with the daughters of Moab. And, God slew twenty-four thousand Israelites.

Now, what did Balaam do? He didn't pervert the gospel. No, His problem was he was orthodox but greedy. Remember what verse 11 talks about—how he greedily ran? (Jude 1:11) You see, there are not enough devils in hell or out of hell, or wherever they may be, to curse this church. But friend, we can curse it if we don't live right. And, there are many false prophets today who will not preach and teach what the Bible says about righteousness.

And, the reason that many preachers today and many teachers today are trimming the messages is for personal gain. And, that gain does not have to be financial. Sometimes it's for prestige. Sometimes it's for popularity. Sometimes it's for power. Put this verse in your margin—2 Peter chapter 2, verse 1: *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who [privately] 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”*—I've already read today in the newspaper some editorials where what I believe is the truth is being evil spoken of because of David Koresh. “Many will follow their pernicious ways. Those who are in the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” But now, notice verse 3—*“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you”* (2 Peter 2:1–3)—covetousness. That's what happened to Balaam.

Now, there are many false prophets, but you spell the word prophet P-R-O-F-I-T. They are in it for what they can get. They may stand up, and they may preach the blood. They don't pervert the gospel; they prostitute the gospel. They sell the gospel the same way that Madison Avenue sells cars. And so, Paul said in 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse 17, they peddle the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

C. Korah: Those Who Protest the Gospel

Now, there is a third kind of false prophet. You have to see all kinds. They are all out there, friend. They are in the woodwork. There are those who pervert the gospel; that's the way of Cain. There are those who prostitute the gospel; that's Balaam. But, there are also those who protest the gospel; that's Korah. The name is spelled differently in the Old Testament. It's *Korah* in the Old Testament. *Core* is the translation in the Greek New Testament. But, it is the same man.

Now, who was Korah? Well, you read about him in Numbers chapter 16. Korah was a gifted man and a man of privilege. He was a cousin of Moses. He was a Levite. He was a prince of Israel. But, somehow he got the idea that he did not like the leadership of Moses and he did not like the leadership of Aaron. Now, remember that Moses and

Aaron were a prophet and a priest. As a matter of fact, the Bible prophesies the coming of Jesus and says the coming of Jesus is this: that Jesus is going to be a prophet like Moses. (Acts 3:20–22; 7:37) Moses is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and so is Aaron a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, because Christ is our High Priest. Christ is prophet and priest to the Church.

But, here's this man named Korah; and he rebels against Moses, and he rebels against Aaron. And, you can go back and read the story for yourself. He says, "You guys think you're just hot stuff. You're taking too much upon you. We don't like your leadership. We don't like what you say. We don't like what you do." And, he organized a rebellion against Moses and against Aaron. And, the Bible says that Moses fell on his face before God and told God about it, and there came a judgment where the earth opened up and swallowed Korah. He went down to hell—and all who followed him. (Numbers 16)

What was Korah's problem? He didn't pervert the gospel. He didn't prostitute the gospel. He just fought the gospel. He hated the gospel. These who represent God's prophet and God's priest, picturing the Lord Jesus Christ, he rose up in rebellion against them. And, I'm telling you, my dear friend, there are those in America who absolutely hate the message that we preach in this church. I mean, they hate it. They hate the blood—not that they deny it; they hate it. They hate the Word of God.

I was talking to a man the other day. He said, "I'm a psychologist." He said, "I used to listen to you preach." He said, "Man, I hated you. I said, 'That man's dangerous'" — talking about me—"That man's dangerous." By the way, he's gloriously saved now. He kept listening. He said, "You know what?" He said, "You know, you are dangerous—dangerous to another kingdom, to another way."

Oh, friend, listen, we have today those who despise the blood-bought way. We have those who prostitute the blood-bought way. We have those who pervert the blood-bought way. They are all false prophets—those who pervert the gospel, those who prostitute the gospel, those who protest the gospel. They are all wolves in sheep's clothing.

II. The Fruit They Bear

Well, let's move on a little bit and think not only about the fleece they wear, but let's talk about the fruit they bear. Go back again and see what our Lord says. Are we helpless? Our Lord changes the metaphor. And, He says in verse 16: "*Ye shall know them*"—who? These wolves—"by their fruits"—now, He no longer speaks of them as animals, but as trees—"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. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Matthew 7:16–19) Now, God is saying that the devil cannot continue to cover up by deception because the fruit is there. Now, let me tell you three things about fruit:

A. The Root Determines the Fruit

First of all, it is the root that determines the fruit. Isn't that right? That's what Jesus is saying. You don't get figs from thistles. It is the root that determines the fruit.

Now, if you had a fruit tree that wasn't bearing the right kind of fruit, what could you do to get the right kind of fruit on it? Well, you could prune it. And, all you do is just strengthen the root. There are a lot of people that think, “Well, you know, if I just get rid of this thing or that thing, well, I'll be a better tree.”

Well, not only could you prune it, but you can transplant it: you can take a bad fruit tree and put it in another place. That's what some folks do when they move their membership: they're just transplanting a bad tree. It's like moving a corpse from one mausoleum to another. I mean, you can transplant it.

What else could you do? Well, you could cultivate it. Now, it's a bad tree, so you cultivate it. A lot of folks are going off to church growth conferences today. They are talking about church growth. And, as I read some of that material, friend, they are telling them how to fertilize weeds. I mean, growth is not everything. So, you could cultivate the tree.

Or, maybe you could just rename that tree. It's a bad tree, so you just give it another name. That's not going to change the fruit. It's the root that determines the fruit.

What could you do? Why, friend, you could decorate it. You could pull off the bad fruit and tie on some figs, some pomegranates. No, no matter what you do—whether you transplant it, you fertilize it, you prune it, you rename it, you decorate it—it is the root that determines the fruit. That's what Jesus is saying.

B. The Fruit Reveals the Root

But, wait a minute. Turn that around: it is the root that determines the fruit, but it's the fruit that reveals the root. Sometimes you can't tell what kind of a fruit tree that it is—you can look at the root and you can't tell. Lots of roots look the same. It's the fruit that tells you what the root is, but it's the root that produces the fruit.

Now, that's what Jesus is saying. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out. That's one thing about the Lord Jesus Christ. He was such an incredible teacher. You see, listen, how do you judge a preacher? Not merely by what he preaches, but by what he produces. Jesus said, “[*You will*] know them”— how?—“*by their [fruit].*” (Matthew 7:16)

Now, you may not be able to tell at first because you've got to wait 'til the fruit comes

out. He may be a good-looking tree. But, Jesus said in John 15, verse 16: *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that at your fruit should remain.”* (John 15:16) What’s the mark of a man of God? There are plenty of people out there who know Jesus because of him. They will be loving Jesus. There will be fruit, and that fruit will remain. (John 15:16) And, our Lord says we are not to be unfruitful. (2 Peter 1:8) Galatians chapter 5, verse 22: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”* (Galatians 5:22) That’s the fruit of the Spirit. I can’t produce that fruit, and you can’t produce that fruit. If we’ll abide in Him, we’ll bear that fruit—the fruit of the Spirit. It’s not your fruit. It’s not mine.

C. The Seed Determines the Root and the Fruit

You see, how can you know them? Well, there is the fleece they wear, but there is the fruit they bear. Now, I said that the root determines the fruit, but the fruit reveals the root. Now, wait a minute. Stay with me. It’s the seed that determines the root and the fruit. Isn’t that right? It’s the seed that determines the root and the fruit. I mean, you’re not going to have the right kind of root or fruit if you don’t have the right kind of seed. And, the seed, Jesus says, is the Word of God. You read Matthew chapter 13 about *“a sower [who] went forth to sow.”* (Matthew 13:3) The seed is the Word of God. It’s the seed—the seed, the seed—that determines both the root and the fruit. What a teacher Jesus is!

III. The Fate They Share

Now, here’s the third thing—and I just have a few moments. But, look in verse 21. I want you to see the fate that they share. *“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”*—He’s now talking about the Judgment Day—*“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”*—now, here’s the fate they share—*“depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:21–23)

Now, my friend, pay attention now; listen carefully: *spiritual activity without scriptural authority is satanic iniquity—spiritual activity without scriptural authority is satanic iniquity.* Jesus is going to say to these, “Depart from me.” In spite of their false profession they say, “Lord, Lord.” He’s going to say, “Depart from me.” In spite of their false preaching: “We prophesied in your name.” He’s going to say, “Depart from me.” In spite of the false power: “In thy name we cast out devils.” He’s going to say, “Depart from me.” In spite of their false performance: “In thy name done many wonderful

works.” And, in spite of their profession, in spite of their preaching, in spite of their power, in spite of their performance, they never knew the Lord Jesus Christ, and He never knew them.

This is not a picture of someone who lost salvation—they never had it. They may have sung in the choir, but they weren’t saved. They may have taken the offering, but they were not saved. They may have preached, but they were not saved. They may have had healing campaigns in which they cast out devils, but they were not saved. And, what they did they did through the power of the great deceiver, Satan himself.

Conclusion

You say, “Well, pastor, how can I know whether I’m saved or not?” Well, friend, you get God’s Word and you stand on it. And, if what I preach to you and tell you does not square with the Word of God, then I am a false prophet. You get the Word of God, and don’t put your faith in anybody else, and let the Holy Spirit of God speak to you. Let me tell you what to do. I’m finished—I’m finished. But listen; let me give you about five things—I’m just going to name them:

A. Study the Faith

Number one: You need to study the faith. If you don’t study the faith, many can be drawn away into a false cult. Study the faith.

B. Show the Faith

Number two: Show the faith. Do you know the best argument for Christianity and against Christianity is the life of a Christian?

C. Stand for the Faith

Number three: Stand for the faith. Get a bulldog grip on the Word of God.

*Holy Bible, Book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine.*

—JOHN BURTON, SR.

D. Support the Faith

Next: Support the faith. Do you know what the tragedy of today is? That many good people are in bad churches. Get in a Bible-preaching church. I’m not saying this is the only one, and I’m not saying we don’t have a lot of room for improvement. But, you need to support the faith. People say, “Well, you know, I know that our church is an apostate church, but Grandma’s buried in the backyard.” Well, friend, Grandma would get up and leave if she could, I’ll guarantee you—because Grandma believed the old-time religion. Support the faith.

E. Share the Faith

I'll say one last thing: Share the faith. Share it. People are waiting to know. We know the truth not because of us but by the grace of God. Share the faith. *We hear people say, "Well, keep the faith." Don't keep it; give it away. If you don't want to give it away, maybe you ought to give it up.*

Maybe you don't have the real thing. If there were ever a message needed today, it's this message, where Jesus Christ, the Son of God, says, "Beware of the wolves." (Matthew 7:15) It is Jesus who is giving that warning. And, if you are a mom or a dad here today and you've not yet given your heart to Jesus Christ, you'd better come and give your heart to Jesus Christ. You'd better come and give your heart to Jesus Christ and get your family in the Word of God or your children are going to be food and fodder for ravenous wolves, whose jaws will drip red with the blood of your children. I'm not talking about physical blood. I'm talking about the enemy who deceives to destroy, to devour. That's the nature of the enemy. And, God has given children moms and dads to guide them. But, even if you don't have children, you need Jesus. You need to be saved. You need to receive Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.†