

Grievous Wolves Will Enter

June 1, 2014

Acts 20:28-32 *(Paul speaking to the elders in Ephesus)*

28 **Pay careful attention** *(to hold to, to attend to)* **to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care** *(poimaino - to act as a shepherd)* **for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**

29 **I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**

30 and **from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted** *(distort, misinterpret, corrupt)* **things, to draw away the disciples after them.**

31 **Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.**

32 **And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build** *(edify, strengthen)* **you up and to give you the inheritance** among all those who are sanctified.

2 Peter 1:13–21

13 **I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,**

14 since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

15 **And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**

16 **For we did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"

18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 **And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place,** until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

20 **knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.**

21 **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Peter 2:1–3

1 **But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies** *(choice, opinion)*, **even denying** *(to say no)* **the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.**

2 **And many will follow their sensuality,** and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3 **And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.** Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Timothy 4:1–4

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, **with complete patience and teaching**.

3 For the time is coming when people **will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,**

4 **and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**

Jeremiah 5:30–31

30 An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land:

31 **the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?**

THE TARGET OF FALSE DOCTRINE IS ALWAYS GOD’S WORD (*to deny, discredit, twist, pervert and corrupt*)

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say,** ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

Matthew 4:5–6

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple

6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, **for it is written,** “ ‘**He will command his angels concerning you,**’ and “ ‘**On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**’ ”

2 Peter 3:15–18

15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, **which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.**

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.**

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

THE MOTIVE IS ALWAYS SELF-EXALTATION AND SELF-GRATIFICATION

OUR RESPONSE TO FALSE DOCTRINE & HERESY

1. **Know the Scriptures for Yourself**

Acts 17:10–12

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

Philippians 1:9–10

9 **And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,**

10 **so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,**

2. Rely on the Spirit of Truth

John 16:13

"**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,** for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

1 Corinthians 2:12–14

12 **Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.**

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1 John 2:24–27

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

26 **I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.**

27 **But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.**

Hebrews 8:10–11

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 **And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.**

3. Exercise Zero Tolerance

2 Timothy 2:14–18

14 **Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.**

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

16 **But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,**

17 and **their talk will spread like gangrene.** Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 **who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.**

Galatians 2:1–5

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

4 **Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—**

5 **to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**

4. No Seek & Destroy Missions

Whenever your attention and focus is distracted off Jesus, and Jesus alone, the experience of abiding in Christ is hindered, interrupted and diminished. So be very careful and guarded with the focus of your heart.

Mark 9:38–41

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”

39 But Jesus said, “**Do not stop him,** for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

40 For the one who is not against us is for us.

41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.