

JUNE 5, 2022

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith
(304) 266-9027*

WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

BEWARE OF THE WOLVES

INTRODUCTION: Matthew 7:15-20

1. Many think all religious leaders may be trusted.
2. Jesus warned His disciples of “false prophets” (Mt. 7:15-20).
3. Are you concerned about false prophets today? You should; they’re everywhere! How do I know this? Look at the diversity in religious world.
4. We need reminded of the danger; and know how to spot “wolves” entering in.

I. THERE WILL BE FALSE PROPHETS.

A. Warnings From Paul

1. To Ephesian elders (Acts 20:28-31).
2. To church at Corinth (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
3. To Timothy (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9).

B. Warnings From Others.

1. Peter told of their rise (2 Pet. 2:1-3).
2. John called for their testing (1 Jn. 4:1).
3. Jude told of their presence (3-4).

II. WE CAN IDENTIFY FALSE PROPHETS.

A. By Investigating the Fruit of Their Life.

1. “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Mt. 7:16-20).
2. The heart eventually reveals its true intentions (Pro. 23:7; Mt. 15:19).
3. False teachers oft betrayed by:
 - a. Greediness (lavish lifestyles, etc. charging admission to their “show”)
 - b. Immorality (adultery, and/or fornication)
 - c. Lust for power (religious empires)

B. By Investigating the Fruit of their Teaching.

1. Note their methods:
 - a. Work secretly (2 Pet. 2:1; 2 Cor. 8:21).
 - b. Appeal to covetousness (2 Pet. 2:3).
 - c. They use deceptive words and tactics (2 Tim. 3:13; cf. 2 Pet. 2:3).
 - 1) Twisting Scripture to advance their own agenda cf. Mt. 4:6.
 - 2) Genuine teachers handle God’s word correctly (2 Tim. 2:14-16).
2. Note their doctrine.
 - a. Note how they twist/pervert Scrip (Gal. 1:8-9).
 - b. Note how they teach things contrary to Scripture (Dt. 13:1-4).
 - c. Note how their teaching compares to God’s word (1 Jn. 4: 1, 6).

CONCLUSION:

1. Judging the heart of any teaching is not necessary; we only need to observe the fruit they bear . . . the heart will reveal itself.
2. We must know God’s word so that:
 - A. We know what to look for in the life of a teacher.
 - B. We know what to listen for in the doctrine of a teacher.
3. God said through Hosea, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6).

FOUR THINGS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW.

John 3:16 is one of the most beautiful passages in the bible. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*”. Sadly, it is also one most misused and least understood. Man says, “All we have to do to go to Heaven is just believe in Jesus Christ.” If that is all that was required, John 3:16 is the only verse we would need. The bible is a book of hope and assurance. It tells us the history of the world; man’s fall and God’s plan to redeem him. BUT there are some sobering facts we must come to accept.

NOT EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED. Jesus said, *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*” (Matt. 7:21). There it is! Not only are sinners not going to be saved, but even some religious folk. False teachers are clearly religious persons, crying, “Lord, Lord.” Their failure is not that of inactivity but indulgence in the wrong activity. They not only deceive but are themselves deceived. Their gross error is in doing their own will instead of Christ’s.

MORE WILL BE LOST THAN SAVED. Matthew records the words of Jesus saying, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (7:13-14)*”. The comparative number of the saved to the lost is plain from this. The relative number of redeemed souls in any generation is not the scale by which God’s success may be measured. God will keep on saving men until the “fullness” of his purpose is achieved (Rom. 11:25).

MANY WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE SAVED WILL BE LOST. Some will be pronounced “lost” and may object saying, “*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* (Matt. 7:22-23). The proverbs writer reminds us that, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death* (14:12).

NO SALVATION CAN BE FOUND AFTER DEATH. If our righteous judge proclaims that He never knew us, it is because we never made the effort to know Him (Matt. 7:23). Once we pass from this life, hope is gone: “*And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence*” (Luke 16:26). The time of our passing and the day of the Lord are nearing with each tick of the clock and depending upon your soul’s condition that is either good news, or it is terrifying.

Are you a faithful Christian? If not, why not? The Lord is ready to accept you; will you accept Him today in faith, repentance and by being baptized (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16)? —*R.*

*Welcome! To our visitors! We are thankful for your presence.
Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the
collection plates.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Nellie Bichard** has pneumonia and is recovering at home.
- Our sympathy to **Ed Gibson** at the passing of his mother on Friday.
- **John** needs one of the men to teach the Wednesday evening Bible class on June 22, and August 3rd.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Those wishing to update their picture on the board, please see **Brenda Warne**.
- ❖ Remember to take advantage of our library in the basement.
- ❖ Please inform John of any changes needed to the prayer list, or directory.

TODAY'S LESSONS
 AM: Beware of the Wolves (Matt. 7:15-20)
 PM: Dinosaurs and the Bible (Gen. 1:24-25).

<p><i>IN OUR PRAYERS:</i> Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Jean Whitley.</p>	<p><i>SHUT-INS:</i> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, Randy Yost</p>
<p><i>FAMILY AND FRIENDS:</i> Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Tiffany Endly (Jerri Mackie's niece), Trudy Kerby, Colleen Kiester (Mo Smith's sister), Janet Patterson, Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Addy Reed, Rodney Reeves (Erica Cunningham's father), John Rockhold, Wilma Roe, Sidney Suttles (Diann Bachmann's friend), Bob & Marge Watson, Ukraine and remember to pray for one another.</p>	

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
42	60	36	24	\$2598 (\$2,420)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The church is often accused of being the only group that shoots its wounded. Paul told the Galtian Christians, "But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another" (5:15). Always be certain your firing squad is not in a circle—Cecil May, Jr.