

27 January 2019

Beware – Pt 2 –Beware of the counterfeit Christian

This is our second study on our topic – “Beware”. In our first study we encouraged you to (1) beware lest thou forget the Lord, (2) beware that there be no wicked thought in thine heart, and (3) beware of wine and strong drink. In this study we beseech you to (1) Beware of those who appear to be brethren but are inwardly ravening wolves, (2) you will know them, they will a) walk in long robes and love greetings in the markets and highest seats, b) make long prayers for a show, c) proclaim false doctrine and d) be abominable and disobedient – in every good work reprobates.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Beware of those who appear to be brethren but are inwardly ravening wolves.
“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt.7: 15).

Those who are young in the faith or have their consciences seared will not see them, they will appear outwardly as righteous, “but within...are full of hypocrisy and iniquity (Matt.23: 28).

2. Beware of those who say they are Christians but are not – you will know them –
a) they walk in long robes and love greetings in the markets, and highest seats.

“Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts” (Lk.20: 46).

b) they will make long prayers for a show – a pretence.

“Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation” (Lk.20: 47). See also Mk.12: 40.

c) they will proclaim false doctrine

“Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (Matt.16: 6, 11 & 12), See also Mk.8: 15, Lk.12: 1.

d) they will be abominable and disobedient – in every good work reprobates.

“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Tit.1: 16). See also – Rev.2: 9.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

When Karen and I were at BCNZ (now Laidlaw College) we soon realised that this “Christian” college was not all that it appeared to be. Signs that the college was run by wolves – the leaders –

- * took no action at a satanic symbol being drawn on the pavement, and

- * warn students not to be deceived by the “King James Only” adherents (hence call good evil), and

- * took no action when brethren wrongfully accused another brethren.

Question to think about.

Why are there so many counterfeit churches, and so many false Christians today – those who appear to be brethren but are inwardly ravening wolves?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Because scripture foretells of a time when, as “there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2Pet 2:1). And we are clearly in that time – right now! It was Aaron that encouraged the people to make a golden calf (Ex.32: 2, & 4), it was the priests that neglected to teach the people the law of Moses (2Chr.15: 3), and today it is the false teachers that bring in damnable heresies and so “by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom.16:18).

Beware of “false teachers”, you will “know them by their fruits” (Mk.7: 16) – the counterfeit Christians, who give the outward appearance of being Christian, but call Bible-believing Christians heretics, and Roman Catholics their brethren, who turn hearts away from God’s word!