

## **BEWARE OF WOLVES** **(Matthew 7:15)**

**Romans 16:17-19** The words and warnings from Jesus echo throughout the New Testament regarding the believers to beware, be watchful, be careful and on the lookout for false brethren. Paul warns the Roman believers about those who would seek to undermine the truths and doctrines they have been taught within the very letter Paul was now closing out.

**Romans 1:28-32** A fact that generally goes unnoticed is that these people are not ignorant of God and His righteousness. They know right from wrong. They know the penalties for their sin, nevertheless, they persist in their wickedness and give approval to those who also commit sin against God.

### **The Fruit Of Wolves: (1) Causing Strife**

**Romans 13:12-13** There is little doubt that Paul is generally talking to and about believers in the church. If we are not careful and are not in the Spirit, believers will cause strife with other believers.

**I Timothy 6:3-5** Paul tells the church that there will be people who do not agree with sound words and pure doctrine. They that do so in the church cause problems and we are to withdraw from them.

**II Timothy 2:22-26** Paul reminds us that there are people in the church that are simple and not learned in the word of God and can be a challenge to communicate with. They like to cause strife.

**Galatians 5:13-21** These verses are often misunderstood by believers because they often think that Paul is talking about lost people. Paul is definitely referring to believers and he is telling us that we are either walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh. The fruits of the flesh can disallow our inheritance.

### **The Fruit Of Wolves: (2) Causing Believers To Stumble**

**Matthew 18:1-7** Our Lord Jesus had severe warnings to anyone who would cause one of His young believers to stumble. These verses have a double application but the same general spiritual warning.

**Romans 14:13-16, 21** We must remember that we are all our brothers keeper. Those that will be used of the Devil, (wolves) will be in our churches working diligently trying to make believers stumble.

**I Corinthians 8:9-13** As believers in Christ we are all partakers of His grace and Christian liberty. However, as the church grows there are a differing levels of spirituality. Those that are mature must be careful in what they say and do while being often observed and followed by young believers.

### **The Fruit Of Wolves: (3) False Teaching**

**II Corinthians 11:12-15** Paul warns the Corinthians about the craftiness of the Devil and his deceiving ways. The wolves in sheep's clothing look like, talk like, and act like believers but are walking through Christ's churches trying to devour His sheep. We must be able to spot deceivers.

**II Timothy 4:2-4** The preaching that Paul is talking about here is getting less and less desirable to believers. The wolves are capitalizing on weak believers and millions are falling for the health and wealth ministries or the new age church movements and are falling by the way side to false teaching.

**Galatians 5:7-12** Paul warns us in his letter to the Galatians that when a little falsehood creeps into the doctrines of Christ and His church teachings it can ruin the basic truth of doctrine. It only takes a few drops of poison in a full cup of coffee to kill you.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4** This Old Testament truth sums up what God wants His people to do with truth. He knows and tells us in both the Old and New Testaments that there will be people (wolves) who will have powers and abilities that will astound us and try to get us away from the truths of God's word.