

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

SoM, Part 24: Warnings, Part 2

Last time...Warning #1 to conclude the SoM:

Enter ye at the strait gate...narrow and characterized by tribulations and trouble
following Jesus, Who is the Way
Pick the Right Way

This time...Warning #2 to those who would be citizens of the Kingdom of God:

Beware of false prophets
Follow the Right Leader

This warning is also for

- The Church
- this church
- each of us

v15 Beware of false prophets:

Warning #2: Beware of false prophets

- imposters
- liars
- deceivers
- hypocrites
- wolves
 - hunt sheep (wear “sheep camo”)
 - eat sheep

Every false prophet preaches a false gospel

True Gospel: 1 Cor 15:1-4...the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Grace
man sinned, man must pay
man cannot pay, so God became a man to pay for man
Matt 19:26 with Heb 11:6 and Hab 2:4 (faith of Christ)

3 kinds of false prophets/wolves:

1. pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ
twist/change to control the flock of God (partial truth = a lie)
2. prostitute the Gospel of Jesus Christ
to merchandise the flock of God for self-gain
3. protest the Gospel of Jesus
hate the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

As it pertains to Warning #1, Pick the Right Way, false prophets direct people

- away from
 - God's Way...Acts 14:22
 - The Way of the Cross...Matt 16:24-25
 - The Romans Road...sinners desperately needing help
 - The Road to Damascus...by faith not by sight
- to
 - the way of the world
 - religions of men...no religion is of God
 - traditions of men...make Word of God of none effect
 - philosophies of men..."rational" worldviews (no faith)
 - the easy, convenient, natural way of living that appeals to flesh
 - the Kings Highway...the "high way" of worldly conquerors
 - the Via Maris...Way of the Sea, "low way" for those in pursuit of fame and fortune in this world

False prophets teach that the Via Maris does not become the Road to Damascus

False prophets are many and difficult to identify with our eyes

We need the Word of God and the Spirit of God to discern them

Matt 10:34	come not to send peace on the earth, but a sword
<u>2 Tim 2:15</u>	discern truth from error: when know Truth, will see errors
<u>1 John 4:1-6</u>	Word made flesh. Believe Word or not, all or in part?

The spirit of antichrist that is forewarned and is here

- is worldly, not Godly...in and of the world vs in but not of the world
- denies the Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- refuses to worship Jesus Christ as God and Lord of all
- denies the sufficiency of Jesus Christ for the hope of salvation
- teaches "good news" that contradicts the Word of God
- points man to another man (or woman, especially the most blessed among women) for the hope of eternal life

This spirit has both religious and political manifestations in the world

1. Political

There is coming a world leader, a dictator, a tyrant..."Antichrist"

- He is a counterfeit, the consummate liar and deceiver
- He will claim to have all the answers for all that ails man
- He will be the hope of all the nations, which will yield their national sovereignty to him and will follow him
- He will be supremely arrogant
- He will allow the Jews to build a Temple on Temple Mount
- He will erect an image of himself in the Holy of Holies in that Temple
- He will demand to be worshipped as God...and will be
- He will mock and blaspheme the Living God
- He will turn on the Jews, make Hitler look like a choir boy
- He will turn on the followers of Jesus Christ
- He will be a tyrant, a criminal mastermind
- He will be a man possessed by Satan himself

Consider the 2 "presumptive nominees" for POTUS: Jezebel & Nabal

- Supremely arrogant?
- Claim to have all the answers?
- Ever admit to being wrong?
- Do they speak the complete truth or partial truths?
- Pervert or prostitute or protest the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Tyrants?
- Mock and blaspheme the Living God? (abortion, homo)
- Point people to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
- Point people to themselves/Gov't/man as the source of all answers for what ails us (i.e. humanism)?

Can we trust our eternal souls with them?

Is there any world leader in which man can place his eternal hope?

Consider the PM of most important nation on earth, Israel?

Last Saturday regarding the Gay Pride Parade in Tel Aviv:

"I bless and strengthen all participants in the gay pride parade in Tel Aviv, flourishing and prosperous. I believe about (what) our people have brought to mankind for thousands of years: every human being is created in God's image. This is the principle which must direct our national life today. Shabbat Shalom to Israel."

(and gave \$4M of Gov't funds to the event)

"As Pride Week continues, I want to send my blessing to the LGBT community," the premier added. "I am proud that Israel is among the most open countries in the world."

False!

Homosexuality is an attack on the image of God, an attack on God

Homosexuality is cursed not blessed by God of Israel

Homosexuality is an abomination to God of Israel

Rev 11:8 Jerusalem referred to as "Sodom and Egypt"

A misrepresentation of God by the political leader of Israel

A political statement by...nothing but a politician

Would you trust your eternal soul with any politician?

Almost every politician...is just a politician...and a false prophet

Politics and those who embrace it for answers – spirit of antichrist

2. Religious

There is coming a religious leader who will lock arms with

"Antichrist – the False Prophet (Rev 13)

- He will look like a lamb but speak like the devil
- He will be a great deceiver
- He will do lying signs and wonders – fire from heaven...
counterfeit of 1 Kings 18
- He will implement the "mark of the beast"...
counterfeit of Ezk 9:4-6 mark = "+"/tav
- He will cause/lead the nations in worship of "Antichrist"

Every false prophet teaches a false gospel...and there are many

Gal 1:6-9

2 Cor 11:1-4

The Pope (a Jesuit) teaches

- he is the representative of Jesus Christ on earth...and as such, all nations are to submit to his authority
- Mary
 - is Queen of heaven (Warning: Jer 44)
 - is Co-Redeemer, equal with Jesus Christ
 - is the mother of us all (along with RCC) and is the hope of all mankind
 - was preserved from “original sin” from the moment she was conceived
 - was perpetually a virgin
 - was “assumed” to heaven...bodily taken to heaven
- salvation/righteousness/being pleasing to God comes by faith + good works (man can pay to be pleasing)
- sins are purged in Purgatory, not by the blood of the Lamb
- babies are born-again by water baptism vs by Holy Spirit
- there are many mediators between man and God vs One
- the traditions of RCC are as authoritative as the Word of God (vs Mark 7:1-13)

Would you trust your eternal soul with the Pope?

According to the Word of God (Matt 24:35), the Pope is a false prophet

Every RCC priest, monsignor, bishop, cardinal that “celebrates” Mass is a false prophet

Heb 9:9-12, 24-26

Heb 10:11-12, 26-29

Every imam in Islam teaches

- Jesus is not God but just a man
- Jesus is a prophet, but inferior to Mohammed
- Allah/god cannot be known
- salvation/righteousness/being pleasing to god (different god than the One revealed in the Bible) comes by good works (man can pay to be pleasing)

Would you trust your eternal soul with an imam?

According to the Word of God (Matt 24:35), every imam in every mosque is a false prophet

Muhammad Ali was a false prophet

“I am the Greatest!”

“Greatness comes from within”

“Allah is god, he is greater” (than God)

The Mormons teach that

- Jesus is a highly evolved man
- man becomes a god
- salvation/righteousness/being pleasing to god
(different god than the One revealed in the Bible)
comes by good works (man can pay to be pleasing)

Would you trust your eternal soul with a Mormon?

According to the Word of God (Matt 24:35), every Mormon bishop, ward leader, etc is a false prophet

JWs teach that

- Jesus Christ is Michael the Archangel
- salvation/righteousness/being pleasing to god
(different god than the One revealed in the Bible)
comes by good works (man can pay to be pleasing)

Would you trust your eternal soul with a JW?

According to the Word of God (Matt 24:35), every JW bishop, leader, etc is a false prophet

Every religion of man teaches salvation/righteousness/being pleasing to god (different god than the One revealed in the Bible)
comes by good works (man can pay to be pleasing)

According to the Word of God,

- every Buddhist monk is a false prophet
- every New Age shaman is a false prophet
- every Hindu priest is a false prophet
- every secular humanist is a false prophet
- every atheist is a false prophet
- every legalistic, self-righteous preacher or priest of works vs grace (“Jesus Plus”) is a false prophet
- every preacher of the “Name it and Claim it”, “Prosperity”, “Social”, “Love” (universalism), “New Apostolic Reformation” gospels is a false prophet
- every preacher that preaches the wide and broad way and not the strait and narrow Way is a false prophet
- every preacher that preaches against [Heb 11:25-26](#) and against James 4:4 is a false prophet

Would you trust your eternal soul with any of them?

How do you know whether or not I am a false prophet?

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21 with Matt 19:17

Would you trust your eternal soul with me?

If you simply believe everything I or any other preachers says
without checking it out for yourself, you are playing with
the fire of deception

Matt 24:1-5, 11, 24

The Lord warned about false prophets/shepherds in Ezk 34:1-10, 16, 22-23

Later in His ministry Jesus Christ will declare the Truth in John 10:1-15, 26-30

The Lord warned about following false prophets/shepherds in Is 30:1-15

Later in His ministry Jesus Christ will warn about that again in Matt 16:1-12

The Holy Spirit warns about false prophets/teachers in

- 2 Cor 11:13-15
- Gal 2:4
- 1 Tim 1:3-7
- Titus 1:10-11
- 2 Peter 2:1-3

Warning #2: Follow the Right Leader

How are we to know?

By their doctrine and their fruits

We are to judge doctrine and fruit!!!

v16-20 Ye shall know them by their fruits:

Given knowledge of the Word of God and spiritual discernment,
we can recognize false teachers (error) by their fruit

James 3:13-18 with Rom 5:1

“fruit of righteousness” is not “mixed berries”!

Good fruit comes from

- God (Matt 19:17)
- good trees, not from sin or from corrupt trees

Bad fruit comes from

- sin – thorns and thistles (“fruit” of the curse)
- corrupt/rotten/worthless trees

Good fruit is

- rooted in Jesus Christ and is pleasing to the Father
- John 15:1-8
- Gal 2:20-21
- Titus 3:5

Bad fruit is

- degenerate
- diseased
- harmful to the consumer
- Is 5:1-7, 11-12, 20-21
 - wild grapes vs God's cultivated grapes
 - injustice for the weak
 - oppression of others
 - indulgence of the flesh
 - pride
 - self-righteousness (Is 64:6)

Good trees

- cannot (impossible!) bear bad fruit
- are purged/pruned so they will bear even more good fruit

Corrupt trees

- cannot (impossible!) bear good fruit
- are cut down and cast into eternal fire
- Matt 3:7-10

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“Beware of false prophets”...especially critical in these days

Luke 6:26

1 Tim 4:1-6, 15-16

1 Tim 6:3-5

2 Tim 4:1-4

Col 2:8

Heb 13:9a, 13-14

James 5:10-11

1 Peter 1:10-12, 25

When you come across a false prophet –

- Flee!
- Run to Jesus Christ of the Bible...and ONLY to Him!
- make the imposter known!

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Warning #2: Beware of false prophets
Follow the Right Leader

May we hear the voice of The Good Shepherd!
May we be faithful to the Word of God!

Closing Song