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## Savage Wolves Among the Flock

### What Scripture Says About False Prophets and Their “Fruit”

by J. Greg Sheryl

Near the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), the Lord Jesus warned:

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders

in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:15-23).



It is important that the Christian understands what the Bible teaches about false prophets and what Jesus meant by “fruits.” If we can know — that is *recognize* or *discern* — false prophets, then we are less likely to be taken in by them.

#### PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Jesus specifically stated that we can recognize false prophets by their fruits. He did *not* say here that we can recognize  
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