

# TAKE HEED AND BEWARE

## Introduction

- 1) **Luke 12:15** – “Take heed and beware...”
  - a) Double warning – has the force of “watch out and be on guard!”
- 2) Jesus is giving a forceful warning about a significant and real danger to his listeners
  - a) Danger of covetousness – greediness, materialism, desire for things of this world
  - b) An excessive desire for material things – *idolatry* (Col. 3:5) – very dangerous!
- 3) There are other important “beware” passages in the scriptures that we should “be aware” of
  - a) To “be aware” is to pay attention; to “beware” indicates potential danger
  - b) I wish such warnings were not necessary, but dangers exist all around (Eph. 5:15-17)
- 4) Three aspects: Beware of deceivers, beware of their deception, and beware of our being deceived

## I) **BEWARE! – Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing (Matthew 7:15)**

- A) Evil tries to cover up its true nature and intentions (2 Cor. 11:13-15; Prov. 26:24-25)
  - 1) Satan’s true desire is not peace and safety, but vicious devouring (1 Pet. 5:8)
  - 2) Evil moves among the flock and leadership seeking destruction, not unity (Acts 20:28-31)
    - a) Since there is strength in unity, the prey must be separated from the flock and shepherd
- B) They seek the trust and influence of God’s flock in various ways
  - 1) Move in quietly and work in the shadows (Jude 4)
  - 2) Hide true beliefs and intentions from public scrutiny (2 Pet. 2:1)
  - 3) Deceive by smooth words and flattering speech (Rom. 16:18)
- C) Dangers needs to be revealed (Prov. 26:26)
  - 1) Examine fruits (Matt. 7:16-20 attitudes, teachings, results)
  - 2) Test teachings by the doctrine of Christ (1 Jn. 4:1, 6)

## II) **BEWARE! – Philosophies of Men (Colossians 2:8)**

- A) If a message is not from God’s word, it is the opinions and philosophies of men (Eph. 5:6)
  - 1) Often made to sound affirming and pleasing – tickles ears with smooth words (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Isa. 30:9-10; Rom. 16:18)
  - 2) Corrupt the scriptures to deceive – twist the scriptures (2 Pet. 3:16; 2 Cor. 2:17)
  - 3) Very effective in drawing people away from Christ (2 Pet. 2:2)
- B) Must not allow crafty deceivers to trick us (Eph. 4:14)

## III) **BEWARE! – Lest We Fall (2 Peter 3:17)**

- A) We need to be aware of our own weaknesses and strengths
  - 1) Am I standing in the truth (2 Cor. 13:5)? Am I growing in the faith (2 Pet. 3:18)?  
Am I wearing the armor of God for protection (Rom. 13:12-14; Eph. 6:10-18)?
- B) If we think we cannot fall, we will fall (1 Cor. 10:12-13)
  - 1) This is because we are not carefully keeping our pathway straight (Prov. 4:23-27)
- C) Self-deception can be spiritually fatal (Gal. 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
- D) Must carefully examine all that we hear and read
  - 1) Do I believe because of my study of the Bible or the teachings of men (Acts 20:32)?

## Conclusion

Those who take heed and beware of the evil one and his ways will find the joy of God’s protection. Staying close to the voice of our good Shepherd will keep us be safe. Keeping His word will help us resist the devil and make him flee. Are you taking heed to danger?