

## A Short Bible Study: “Beware of False Prophets” (Matthew 7:15)

1. “Beware of false prophets” is a part of what sermon that Jesus preached? [see chapters 5-7 of Matthew]
2. To whom was the Sermon on the Mount originally preached? [see Matthew 5:1-2 and 7:28-29]
3. Is there anything to indicate that the Sermon on the Mount, in general, and the words “Beware of false prophets,” in particular, was limited to the disciples and the crowds who first heard these words of Jesus?
4. The Greek word for “beware” also has the meaning of “paying close attention to” and “be on guard.” The same word is used nine times by Jesus and twice in the book of Acts. Look up the following and note how each is used with respect to doctrine and the need to be on guard for false teachers/teachings.

Matthew 10:17 —

Matthew 16:6, 11 —

Luke 17:3 —

Acts 20:28 —

5. “Beware of false prophets” — Law or Gospel?

[Remember that the Law tells us what to do and not do; while the Gospel makes no demands but only offers the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation on account of the Incarnation, holy life, innocent suffering, sin-atonement Death of Jesus and His death-defeating Resurrection from the dead.]

6. Are you to take heed to the words of Jesus, “Beware of false prophets”?
7. How will one know if a prophet, teacher or pastor is false or not? [see Matthew 7:16-20]
8. Must one know the true doctrine before being able to know false doctrine?
9. What is the basis for knowing the difference between true doctrine and false doctrine?
10. In Matthew 7:1, Jesus tells us not to judge. In 1 Corinthians 10:15 Paul tells us to judge.
  - What judging are we NOT TO DO?
  - What judging are we TO DO?
  - Identify several other areas of judging that we are actually CALLED TO DO?