

# HOW CAN WE ESCAPE BEING ENSNARED BY FALSE TEACHERS?

PREP FOR COLOSSIANS 2:8

Matthew 7:15-20

- I. **RECOGNIZE THE EXTREEM DANGER**: Jesus commands and warns us to **beware** of the destructive false prophets (15)
  
- II. **UNDERSTAND THEIR DECEPTION**: God's Word reveals their true internal nature, **so beware!** (15)
  - A. **They are counterfeits**: Jesus reveals they imitate true shepherds, yet inwardly are ravenous wolves (15)
  
  - B. **Their internal motivation unveiled** (15, various passages)
  
- III. **REALIZE THEIR DEEDS WILL REVEAL THEM**: Jesus reveals you will know them for sure by their fruits, **so beware!** (16-18, misc passages)
  - A. You will know them by their **bad fruit in character** (deeds)
  
  - B. You will know them by their **bad fruit in bad fruit in doctrine** (words)
  
  - C. You will know them by the **bad fruit in ministry** (i.e. their converts & followers)
  
- IV. **KNOW THEIR DAMNATION IS SURE**: They are destined for eternal fire, **so beware!** (19)
  
- V. **So then, HEED THE WARNING!** You will know them by their fruits, **so beware!** (20)