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YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS

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Today we want to take our Scripture text from **Matthew 7:15-20**, "**Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them**". As I sat down today to pen this newsletter, I have been fasting for many days and I believe I am inspired by the Holy Ghost to deliver this word at this appointed time. The Lord is dealing profusely within my spirit about fruit that is being manifested in ministry. Needless to say, the Christ of God certainly knows everyone's heart and He knows exactly what kind of fruit they are bearing, good or evil. As Saints of the Most High God, it is our responsibility to seek the face of God along with His counsel so that we may discern the hearts of men whether their fruit is of Christ or of Satan. Jesus said many false prophets and false teachers would explode here in the time of the end. **Matthew 24:5**, "**For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many**". I have often forewarned you when you read the word many in the Scriptures, for the most part it is always in a negative light. Just like Christ and His words, along with those of His apostles, when writing their epistles used the word many: it was more times than not used in a very disparaging manner: i.e. **2nd**

Corinthians. 2:17," **For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God**". Jesus said in **Matthew. 7:13** "**Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat**". There are many more examples concerning the word many, but time and space will not suffer me. The first thing Christ tells us concerning these men is to beware of them. The word beware in the Greek is # 4337: which means to pay attention to, to be cautious about or to take heed concerning these charlatans. Never before has there been a greater need to be cautious concerning those whom you allow to speak into your hearing. The greatest and most powerful trait these charlatans possess is they appear as sheep, but inwardly Jesus said they are ravening wolves. The word ravening simply means they seize and tear apart like a wolf. These false teachers are anything but sheep! All false teachers and prophets are like wolves in that they run around together in packs and are all self-centered seeking personal gain. Regrettably, they seek from the disposition of ego, recognition, fame, prestige, position, livelihood, career, and comfort all at the expense of the sheep. They are concerned primarily with realizing their own motives and purposes all the while pushing their own thoughts and formulas for succeeding in this present life: but what about the afterlife? Jesus posed a powerful question to all men in **Mark 8:36-37**, "**What shall it profit a**

man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul"? One of the greatest characteristics of false prophets and false teachers is like wolves they run together in packs, thus looking alike and are in agreement with devouring the flock of God for personal gain. They want a following so as to acknowledge their lead in intelligence, creativity, knowledge, and ability: better said, super stardom. They appear as sheep but howl and cry out their foul formulas and false revelations. They use every form of media possible to disseminate their false doctrines, discord, and heresies. The truth is 99% of these men have never allowed a group of Holy Ghost Spirit-filled men to lay their hands upon them and set them forth as ministers of the gospel. These men are self-appointed, self-anointed, self-proclaimed, false prophets, false teachers, seducers, and they are totally led by their father Satan. This is why we read in **1st Timothy 5:22**, "**Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure**". We have many biblical examples in the laying on of hands upon men and sending them forth to do the work of God. **Acts 13:1-3**, "**Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy**

Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

This passage of Scripture demonstrates correctly in how that true men of God are to be sent forth into the fields to reap the harvest. By the way, on two separate occasions, I have had Holy Ghost spirit filled men to lay their hands upon me, along with anointing me with oil to send me forth into the fields. This was done to me once when I was a young single minister by the Church of God denomination in Cleveland, Tennessee. After I resigned from the Church of God in 2001 the Lord spoke to my heart and told me again the second time: bring in Holy Ghost spirit filled ministers and have them lay their hands upon you and your wife anointing you both before the church and send you forth again demonstrating submission. Truly God-called and appointed men have the presbytery (**1st Timothy 4:14**) lay hands upon them by the power of the Holy Ghost and send them forth. These anointed men are now ordained of God to go out into the harvest fields and reap the harvest; without this matter of ordination these imposters are absolutely barren and fruitless. This was the very process in establishing the Aaronic covenant priesthood, (**Exodus 30:30-32**) that God told Moses to perform. For this very reason, there are so many false prophets and false teachers having gone out into the world and have never gone through the scriptural protocol and have never been correctly ordained by God and set forth by the body of Christ. Again we read in **1st Timothy 4:14**, "**Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.**" Again Paul reaffirms Timothy's calling as a pastor by the fact the elders laid their hands upon him and set him forth to be an ordained pastor. We read in **2nd Timothy 1:6**, "**Wherefore I put thee in remembrance**

that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

For that very reason the church as we now see it resembles a three ring circus rather than something ordained by God Almighty. I would to God I could disseminate this word to everyone who **thinks** they are called of God but have never gone through the correct protocol scripturally in regards to being set forth as a minister of the Lord. There is man's way and then there was God's way; man's way is death, destruction, and confusion: God's way is life, liberty, and fruitfulness. The simple reason these false teachers easily deceive the people is because they are wearing sheep's clothing and unsuspecting. They appear harmless, innocent, and good. They start out as excellent examples in our society, but they lack two major elements within their personal lives: a life and a testimony **changed** by the power of the word of the living God. Paul the apostle declared in **2nd Corinthians 11:13-15**, "**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers (Satan's messengers) also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (fruit)**". As a Minister of true righteousness, it is my solemn obligation and spiritual authority to warn you of these charlatans who will come in these last days purporting themselves to be something, when in reality they are nothing more than thorns and thistles. Their greatest fruit is confusion within the body, bloggers included. Not only are these men full of thorns and thistles, but they are unruly because they have not the spirit of Christ and they lack subjection and submission within the body of Christ. We are **all** warned (**including me**) in **Ephesians 5:21**, "**Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God**". Furthermore Paul warned the church in **1st Thessalonians 5:12-14** "**And we beseech you, brethren to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among**

yourselfes. Now we exhort you, brethren warn them that are unruly." There are many unruly members, false teachers, and false prophets within the body of Christ who are truly not what they appear to be because they are not God-called. Paul called them false brethren (**Gal.2:4**). For that reason Jesus said to us "**ye shall know them by their fruits**". Christ does not need to know them by their outward fruits because he already knows them by their inward hearts, which no man can see but God. Thus, we are warned in **Jeremiah 17:9-10**, "**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.** Again, may I emphasize two fundamental things in this passage of Scripture: **heart and fruit**, and Jesus always knows them both. In closing, these false teachers and false prophet's claim they teach justice, morality, righteousness, and goodness: however, they never preach **repentance**. Do not be deceived by these scoffers and false teachers. The real reason for the manifestation of their fruit is so that **we may know** them. True ministers of righteousness always bring healing, deliverance, and a pure word to the body of our Lord Jesus, but never division except for the sake of sin and correction. Only the spiritual are qualified to correct **Galatians. 6:1**, "**Brethren, if a man be overtaken (found out or detected) in a fault, (missed the mark or sinned) ye which are spiritual, (set forth by God and the elders) restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted**". For that very reason God Almighty hates discord among the brethren for it is a cancer birth out of hell, and purveyed by Satan's minions. **Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!**

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford