

3 John: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Isaiah 5:20 ❖ 3 John 9-10

Jesus said, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

(Matthew 7:15)

Danger from Within

Almost 500 years ago, God was raising up young people all over Europe to _____ the Catholic Church. They didn't want to leave the church; they wanted to stop unBiblical practices such as _____ to have your sins forgiven. The Presbyterian Church traces her roots back to one of those young men, John _____. To escape being arrested and killed, he had to flee France. Most of those who agreed with him fled, also, or were _____ out of the church or killed.

_____ determines what is right and what is wrong? For Christians, the answer is _____, and He has revealed the truth in the _____.

"The written word is the _____ infallible rule of faith and practice." (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 1)

"Woe to those who call evil _____ and good _____, who put darkness for _____ and light for _____, who put bitter for _____ and sweet for _____" (Isaiah 5:20).

In the latter part of the 1st century the _____ John, an older man by the time he wrote 3 John, was battling those _____ the early church who were teaching things about _____ and the Christian _____ that were not true.

Two of the heresies being taught by false teachers then were that Jesus only seemed to have a _____ and that a person was not saved by faith in _____ alone but by special knowledge.

When John found out there was a _____ in sheep's clothing in the flock, he confronted him. "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be _____, will have _____ to do with us" (v. 9).

John was then prepared to take it to the next level. "So if I come, I will _____ attention to what he is doing, _____ maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the _____. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them _____ of the church" (v. 10).

How Should False Prophets Be Dealt With?

- 1) *Discipline*
 - a. Jesus' principles for dealing with _____ - Matthew 18:15-17
 - b. "The Book of Discipline" with the goal of _____.
- 2) *Prevention*
 - a. The most important role of denominations is _____ pastors.
 - b. In the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, those who want to be _____ elders are examined rigorously and must meet specific educational standards before being rigorously _____ again.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Things that cause people to _____ are _____ to come, but woe to that person through _____ they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a _____ tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So _____ yourselves. If your brother sins, _____ him, and if he repents, _____ him" (Luke 17:1-3).

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

In the 21st century, many Protestants have been battling those _____ the church who are teaching things about _____ and the Christian _____ that are not true.

Two of the heresies being taught by false teachers _____ are that Jesus is one of _____ ways to God and that a person is not saved by faith in _____ alone but by being good or connecting with the universe.

There is always the danger that false teachings from some pastors or religions may _____ us against the true teachings of Christianity.

The truth must be told by those teaching in Christ's Church:

"Jesus _____ me this I know for the _____ tells me so"

"God so loved the world that He _____ ..."

God's rules are for our _____ and that of society

God is in _____, and we are not

"_____ us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

"Love your _____ as you love yourself"

Heaven is our _____.

