

WHAT OF LIBERALISM?

If any one force is eating away at the very foundation of Christianity today, it must be liberalism. *Liberalism* in its essence and heart is evil. It is destructive, deceiving and sly. Those who practice it remind us of the most subtle beast of the field, the serpent (Genesis 3:1-6; Revelation 12:9). **Liberalism is an attitude of a lack respect and appreciation for divine truth by loosing where God's Word does not loose.** It is responsible for a multitude of false doctrines which have caused men to be eternally separated from the God of heaven.

Whatever form this deadly monster takes, it is just as damnable and hurting. However, it would seem that the most deceiving and harmful form through which it works is that of the wolf in sheep's clothing. Jesus warned, **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves"** (Matthew 7:15). Every true sheep should beware of the false sheep who seeks to devour. To **"beware"** implies the importance of knowing the characteristics for which to watch. Notice then, in playing the *Spot The Wolf "Game,"* a few of the attributes for which to watch in turning the light on the evil-doer of darkness (Ephesians 5:11).

1 Notice first that a wolf in sheep's clothing looks like the other sheep. He grazes with them. He seems to follow the shepherd with them, sleeps and lives with them. In the church the false teacher (WOLF) would have it no other way. His game is deception and he will talk, dress and act in whatever way necessary to win the score. The liberal plays the part of the faithful, conservative child of God (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

2 Second, Jesus said that **"inwardly they are ravening wolves."** The divine Son of God, our Lord, in making this statement, exposes the self-serving motives of false prophets. The wolf in sheep's clothing is not out to help his fellow sheep correctly follow the footsteps of the shepherd and neither is the motive of the faithless hypocrite in the church directed toward exhorting fellow comrades on the path of duty. His desire is to see them in the ditch so that evil may triumph over their wayward feet. Did not Jesus say, **"They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch"** (Matthew 15:14)? **"In vain do they worship me"** (Matthew 15:9). The false teacher in a congregation is not concerned with characteristics such as right motives, sincerity and such; his only thought is to claim as many sheep as possible to his denominational type philosophy of Christianity. Jesus said, **"Ye shall know them by their fruits"** and

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:16, 20). Notice by the use of repetition the great emphasis of Jesus to **"KNOW THEM!"** (Matthew 7:16-20, emphasis mine, GLG).

3 Still a third characteristic of a wolf is that of charading as a mature, experienced follower of the shepherd.

Surely, one of the most sickening, disgusting and repulsive attitudes the faithful servant of God is forced to witness is that of the liberal as he poses as a mature, loving and wise Christian. The true child of God can see with exact spiritual eyesight the lying hypocrisy this form of evil takes. The uncommitted liberal has skin-deep love. He has learned to smile, talk softly and act intellectual, but he hasn't learned to love. He has learned to blow his trumpet and do his works to be seen of men, but he has not learned to pray in his closet and keep from the left hand what the right hand has done (*cf.*, Matthew 6:4).

4 Fourth, the wolf in sheep's clothing likes being a wolf. It is a challenge and a savage joy to him as he cowardly hides behind a mask and sneaks upon unsuspecting, innocent little sheep. The liberal in a congregation likes being so. He can appear to be a friend to young converts. But to the false prophet the young convert is easy prey and he will not be satisfied until another conversion takes place, from true