

**Life in the Balance**

I am the gate to life ... which will you enter?

I am the source of truth ... will you be nourished by it?

I am the only Lord and Savior ... do you truly know Me?

I am the true and secure foundation ... what are you building on?

**Why We Need Discernment of Prophets**

Definition of Prophet: Those who either foretell or forthtell

The Bible gives a history of abuses and deceptions (Ezek. 13:8-9, Acts 20:28-30)

**Wolves among the Sheep**

“*Beware*” – be alert, don’t be surprised (2 Co. 11:13-15)

“*Come to you in sheep’s clothing*” – look, sound, and act like you outwardly

“... *inwardly are ravenous wolves*” – intent is to destroy and devour

**Three Categories for Recognizing Deceptive Fruit**

Category 1: The Doctrine they teach

- Speak from own delusion not divine command (Jeremiah 23:16)
- Deny God’s word rather than proclaim it (Jeremiah 23:17, 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- Jesus is not central to their message (2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 4:1-3)

Category 2: Effect in the lives of others

- Cause division (Romans 16:17a)
- Reject biblical authority (Romans 16:17b)

Category 3: Evidence of their own moral character

- Pride, greed, rebellion (Jude 10-11)
- Given to immorality (2 Peter 2:2)

Counterfeits are discovered by knowing what the real is

**Life in the Balance**

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ ... which will you \_\_\_\_\_ ?

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ... will you be \_\_\_\_\_ by it?

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ Lord and Savior ... do you \_\_\_\_\_ Me?

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ... what are you \_\_\_\_\_ on?

**Why We Need Discernment of Prophets**

Definition of Prophet: Those who either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible gives a history of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezek. 13:8-9, Acts 20:28-30)

**Wolves among the Sheep**

“*Beware*” – be \_\_\_\_\_, don’t be \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Co. 11:13-15)

“*Come to you in sheep’s clothing*” – \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ like you \_\_\_\_\_

“... *inwardly are ravenous wolves*” – \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Categories for Recognizing Deceptive Fruit**

Category 1: The \_\_\_\_\_ they teach

- Speak from own \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ command (Jeremiah 23:16)
- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word rather than \_\_\_\_\_ it (Jeremiah 23:17, 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ to their message (2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 4:1-3)

Category 2: Effect in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

- Cause \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 16:17a)
- Reject biblical \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 16:17b)

Category 3: Evidence of their own \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Jude 10-11)
- Given to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 2:2)

\_\_\_\_\_ are discovered by \_\_\_\_\_ what the \_\_\_\_\_ is