




Look a Little Closer

Matthew 7:15-20



Christ warns people of the dangers of false teachers, so that we would know truth and examine our leaders' lives.

1. True Danger of False Teachers





Prophets throughout Scripture are people who bring forth God's Word.



Matthew 24:11

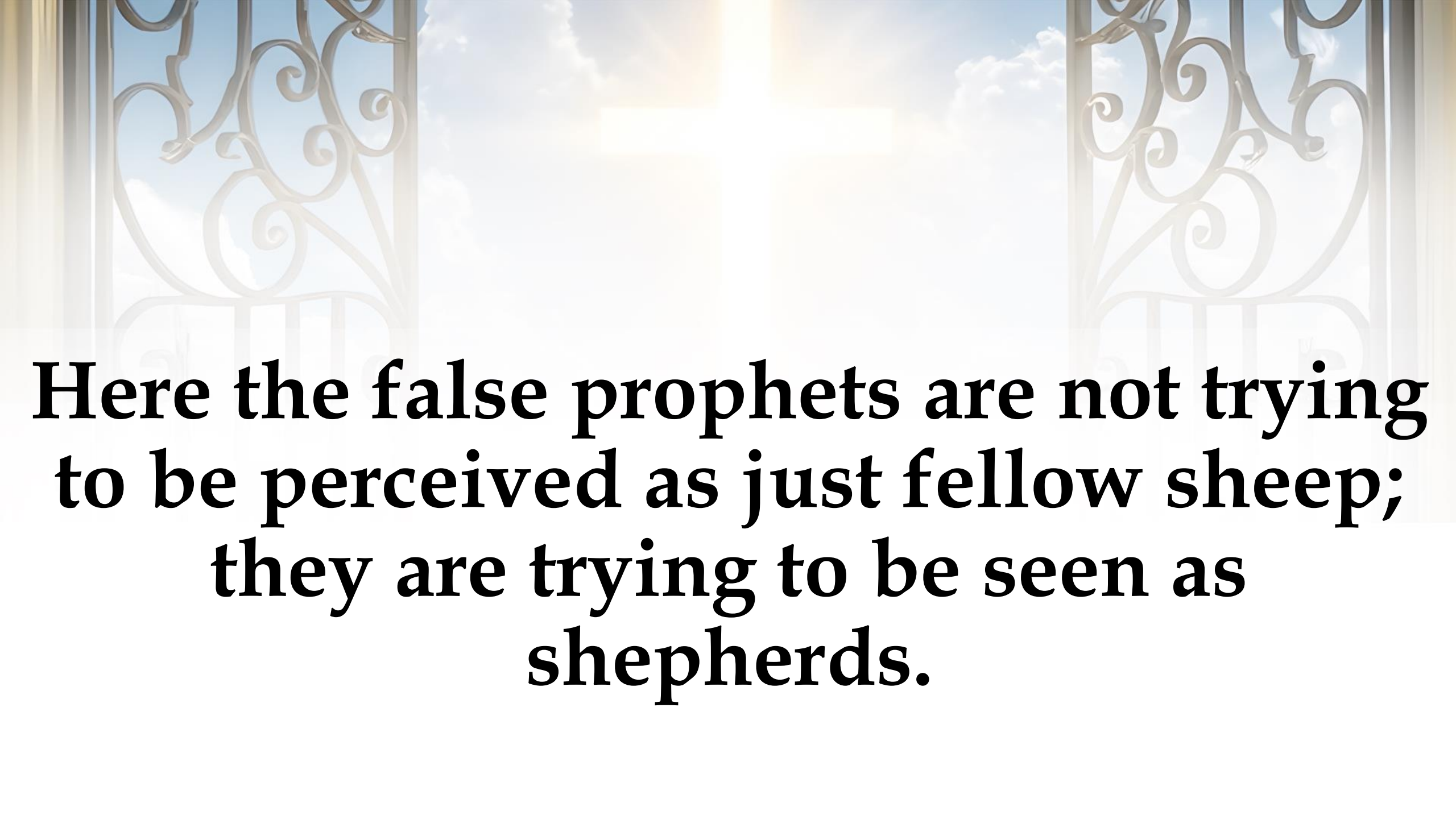
**And many false prophets will arise
and lead many astray.**

Romans 16:17-18

[17] I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

Romans 16:17-18

[18] For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.



**Here the false prophets are not trying
to be perceived as just fellow sheep;
they are trying to be seen as
shepherds.**



**Does their preaching cause you love
Christ more?**



**The danger is that people are led
astray.**

**1. True Danger of
False Teachers**

**2. True Discernment
of Teachers**





Don't consume the fruit of a diseased vine or you will also become diseased.

A golden ornate gate with intricate scrollwork is shown from a low angle, opening up to a bright, sunlit sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The sun is positioned in the center of the frame, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The gate is flanked by two vertical posts, and the overall atmosphere is one of hope and light.

**Check for good
fruit:**

**A. Do they
speak according
to the Word as
it gives light to
their lives?**

A golden, ornate wrought-iron gate stands open, revealing a bright, sunlit sky filled with soft, white clouds. The sun is positioned in the center, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The gate's intricate scrollwork is visible on both sides, framing the view of the sky.

**Check for good
fruit:**

**B. Do their
lives display
the power of
godliness?**

A golden ornate gate with intricate scrollwork is shown from a low angle, opening up to a bright sun shining over a vast sea of white, fluffy clouds. The sun is positioned in the center of the frame, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and divine light.

**Check for good
fruit:**

**C. Do their
disciples
exemplify
growing
faith/holiness
pursued?**

2 Peter 2:1-3

[1] But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:1-3

[2] And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. [3] And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.



2 Peter 2:1-3

Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.



**Do not eat the fruit of a pastor that
you cannot inspect.**



**1. True Danger of
False Teachers**

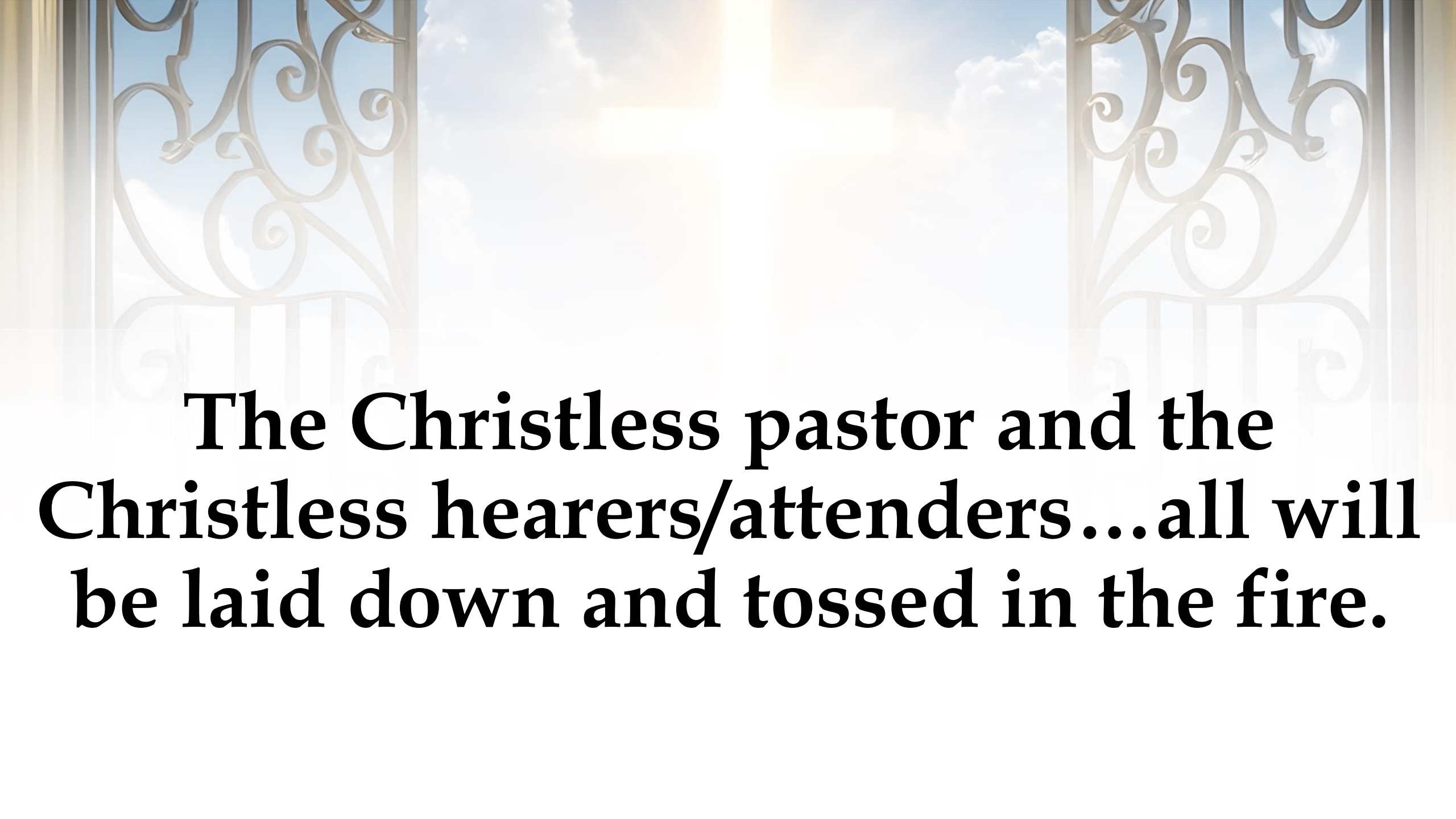
**2. True Discernment
of Teachers**

**3. True Destruction
of False Teachers**



Matthew 3:10

Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.



**The Christless pastor and the
Christless hearers/attenders...all will
be laid down and tossed in the fire.**

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

[1] “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, [2] and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

[3] you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

A golden ornate gate with intricate scrollwork is shown from a low angle, opening up to a bright, sunlit sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The sun is positioned in the center of the frame, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The gate is flanked by two vertical posts, and the overall atmosphere is one of hope and divine light.

Walking Points:

**1. Know the
Word so you
will know
when it is being
preached and
taught**

A golden ornate gate with intricate scrollwork is shown from a low angle, opening up to a bright, sunlit sky. In the center of the sky, a large, glowing cross is visible, surrounded by soft, white clouds. The sun is positioned behind the cross, creating a strong lens flare effect. The overall scene is bright and hopeful, suggesting a path to heaven or a bright future.

Walking Points:

**2. Spend time
with your
pastors.**

A golden ornate gate with intricate scrollwork is shown from a low angle, opening up to a bright, sunlit sky filled with soft white clouds. The sun is positioned in the center of the frame, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The gate is flanked by two vertical posts, and the overall atmosphere is one of hope and divine light.

Walking Points:

**3. Look for
good fruit, not
perfection.**