

Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5 Instructions for Church Life

20 Do not despise prophecies,

21 but test everything.

Hold fast to what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

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1 Timothy 5

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

20 Those (elders) who are sinning rebuke **in the presence of all**, that the rest also may fear.

1 Timothy 1

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

20 Among these are **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2

16 But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness,

17 and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene.

Among them are **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**,

18 who have deviated from the truth.

They say that the resurrection has already occurred, and they undermine the faith of some.

2 Timothy 4

14 **Alexander the coppersmith** did me much harm.

May the Lord repay him according to his works.

15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

3 John

9 I have written to the church about this, but **Diotrephes**, who loves to be first, will not accept our instruction.

10 So if I come, I will call attention to his malicious slander against us. And unsatisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers and forbids those who want to do so, even putting them out of the church.

Revelation 2 (Ephesus)

6 But you have this to your credit:

You hate the works of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

Deuteronomy 13

5 Such a prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he has advocated rebellion against the LORD your God, ... he has tried to turn you from the way in which the LORD your God has commanded you to walk.

So you must **purge the evil from among you**.

Titus 1

9 He must hold firmly to the faithful word as it was taught, so that he can encourage others by sound teaching and refute **those** who contradict it.

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Deuteronomy 18 – Accuracy (applicable for predictive prophecy)

Deuteronomy 13 – Doctrine (do they teach about God accurately?)

Matthew 7 –

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Matthew 7 – Words/actions/character (know the root by the fruit)

Matthew 7

13 "Enter by the narrow gate.

For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

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15“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

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2 Corinthians 11

12 But I will keep on doing what I am doing, in order to undercut those who want an opportunity to be regarded as our equals in the things of which they boast.

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, **masquerading as apostles of Christ.**

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself **masquerades as an angel of light.**

15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants **masquerade as servants of righteousness.** Their end will correspond to their actions.

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15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 You will recognize them by their fruits.

Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

What is “fruit” in Matthew 7:16-20?

1. Words/actions/character

1 Timothy 4

16 Pay close attention to your **life** and to your **teaching**.

Persevere in these things, for by so doing you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

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What is “fruit” in Matthew 7:16-20?

1. Words/actions/character

2. The result of their ministry

- Not success in terms of numbers and size.
- What are the words/actions/character of their followers?

3. Doctrine (is also a fruit)

Didache (Chapter XI)

3. And concerning the Apostles and Prophets, act thus according to the ordinance of the Gospel.

4. Let every Apostle who comes to you be received as the Lord,

5. But let him not stay more than one day, or if need be a second as well; but if he stay three days, he is a false prophet.

6. And when an Apostle goes forth let him accept nothing but bread till he reach his night's lodging; but if he ask for money, he is a false prophet.

10. And every prophet who teaches truth, if he do not what he teaches, is a false prophet.

12. But whosoever shall say in a spirit "Give me money, or something else," you shall not listen to him; but if he tell you to give on behalf of others in want, let none judge him.

Didache (Chapter XII)

1. Let everyone who "comes in the Name of the Lord" be received; but when you have tested him you shall know him, for you shall have understanding of true and false.
2. If he who comes as a traveller, help him as much as you can, but he shall not remain with you more than two days, or, if need be, three.
3. And if he wishes to settle among you and has a craft, let him work for his bread.
4. But if he has no craft provide for him according to your understanding, so that no man shall live among you in idleness because he is a Christian.
5. But if he will not do so, he is making traffic of Christ; beware of such.

Matthew 7

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?’

23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ [Psalm 6:8]

Matthew 7

24 “Therefore, everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

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1 John 4

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1 John 4 – Doctrine/source (the incarnate Word; the written Word)

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2 By this you know the Spirit of God:

every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

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1 John 2

22 Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?

This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

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2 John

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh.

Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be fully rewarded.

9 Anyone who runs ahead without remaining in the teaching of Christ does not have God.

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9 Anyone who runs ahead without **remaining in the teaching of Christ** does not have God.

Whoever remains in **His teaching** has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you but does not bring **this teaching**, do not receive him into your home or even greet him.

11 Whoever greets such a person shares in his evil deeds.

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1 John 4

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

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By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

John 7

16 “My teaching is not My own,” Jesus replied.

“It comes from Him who sent Me.

17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak on My own.

18 He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory,

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