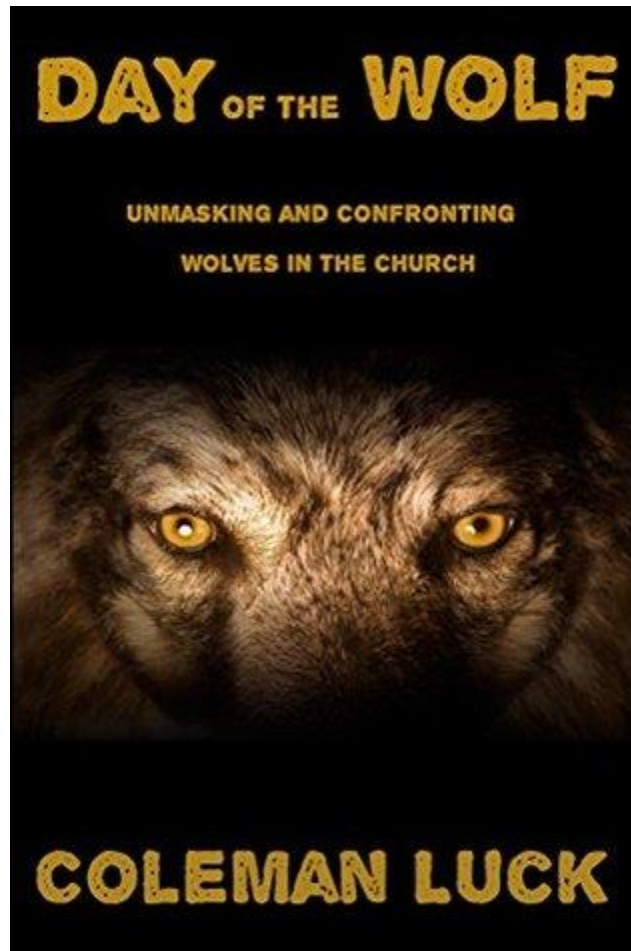


DAY OF THE WOLF

A pastor friend of mine handed me a copy of this book on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 as we began our two day intensive Confidential Coaching Session. He said this book is the most accurate description of what he went through fourteen months ago when he was blindsided, brutally attacked, and removed as Senior Pastor of the church he was serving. I had never seen this book before. Once I read the description on the back cover, I knew I would start reading it that night. It was the only book I read in addition to the Bible, until I finished the last word on August 25, 2022. Once I finished reading this amazing, powerful, and timely book, I spent several hours writing quotes into my Prayer Journal for the Holy Spirit prompts I received. I want to remember what I learned and to be able to carry it with me to help others.



Imagine a hospital where the lead surgeon was a carefully hidden serial killer who got pleasure and made money from bringing slow and excruciating death to his victims. Imagine a hospital where evidence about this murderer was beginning to mount. His acts were becoming clear. People were crying out in pain at what he was doing, yet, in spite of all the evidence, almost the entire staff continued to defend him, even blaming his victims for their wounds and throwing them out of the hospital to fend for themselves. Those who were trying to speak the truth were thrown out too. Sound insane? That is what is happening within many churches and Christian organizations.

Most Christians don't know how to recognize spiritual wolves, nor do they even have the desire to do so. Though wolves may be mauling, Christians turn blind eyes to their attacks, allowing the damage to continue and the cause of Jesus Christ to suffer great loss. In the process, the wounded victims are further victimized by the attitudes of ignorant, cowardly people. This book has been written to help those brave people who are willing to stand against the evil that is sweeping through the church.

This book has been written to call us all to account. For spiritual wolves, it is the most serious warning to repent while there is still time. Your soul is at stake. For those who follow and encourage wolves, it is a call to Biblical awareness, repentance and action. For those who have been wounded in wolf attacks, it is a call to forgiveness and healing. For everyone in the Christian Church it is a call to vigilance and, where needed, Biblical, Holy Spirit empowered confrontation, because things are going to get much worse.

To faithful pastors, teachers and leaders, I salute you. Because of the nature of so many cases, what I have written is directed at people who are dealing with wolves in Christian leadership, but many wolves are not found in formal leadership. Thousands of faithful men and women of God have been viciously attacked by wolf packs in their congregations and ministries. Perhaps that includes you. Because of those attacks, you were so wounded that it was necessary to retreat from the battle to experience healing. If so, don't let the retreat for healing become a permanent advance to the rear. You are a warrior and you are needed.

A wolf may shift the focus away from Jesus and loving obedience to Him, by introducing endless, distracting minutiae that can appear to be sound Bible teaching. This may include obsessive emphasis on God's blessings of prosperity, or politics, or imagined details about the End Times, or spiritual gifts, or tithing, or Biblical rules and law, or fascination with the meaning of Greek words, or the positive, "seeker-sensitive" messages of the Bible and on and on. But all of it brings about one result. With subtle, almost hypnotic power, the gifted wolf incrementally reshapes love for Jesus into praise, love and worship of himself. In the process Jesus is never forgotten. He's just molded into a lovely, lifeless statue. (p. 40)

The gifted wolf may teach the Bible and theology in great detail without ever bringing hearers to an understanding of the need for repentance from sin, the receiving and giving of forgiveness, or the absolute surrender of the life to Jesus' Lordship. He or she may teach about discipleship, but create no disciples to the Lord. He or she may teach much about the "power" and "gifts" of the Holy Spirit, but never teach the true evidence of His Presence, which is an ever-deepening love for Jesus that leads to a holy life set apart for Him and His Kingdom. (p. 41)



A great danger and sin in the Church is to accuse someone of being a wolf (false prophet, false teacher) when it isn't true. Because a teacher/leader disagrees with you about baptism, or the End Times, or

tithing, or freewill/ election/ predestination, or the sign gifts, or the role of women in the church, or how a Christian is to act and minister in the world, or how a church is to be organized and led, etc., does not automatically make that individual a wolf. He may be wrong, but all of us are wrong in many particulars. Part of maturing in Christ is recognizing how little we know and looking at others with compassion and humility, hoping that we will be viewed in the same way. If we constantly “cry wolf” no one is going to believe us when a real wolf appears. (p. 50)

There is an old saying that “the devil rules by fashion”. This isn’t just in the world, it’s true in the church. A person may have a style of communicating that you find grating, irritating, out-of-date, immature, boring (add your own adjectives). Your dislike of that style may color your thinking about everything that person says or does to such a degree that you undermine his or her leadership. (p. 50)

Often old Christians stand in rigid judgement over stumbling and bumbling your Christian leaders and teachers, deciding that they are of little value. Young Christians refuse to listen to old Christian teachers and leaders viewing them as out of touch, irrelevant and judgmental. (p. 50)

When this happens, and it’s happening in so many churches, be clear about one thing. It is paving the way for a wolf to take leadership. The wolf always appeals to the desires of the dominant crowd. He or she knows exactly what is fashionable with that crowd and how to use it. So while you undermine godly leaders, the wolf is at the door. (p. 50-51)

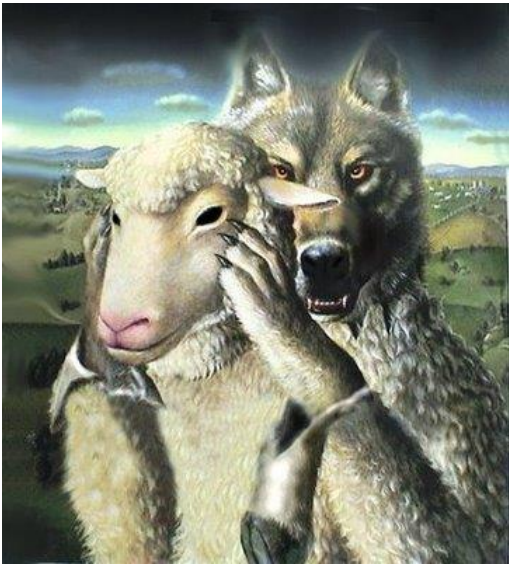
At this period of history (2014) so-called “social media” have made it possible to malign people, especially Christian leaders, beyond anything imaginable in the past. Too often I read someone’s diatribe against a Christian leader calling that person a false teacher. These are passed from person to person in an endless slandering chain. (p. 51)

In one recent case an accusation made by a spewing “Christian” was disproved with evidence in that very “thread”. No matter, the spewer just went right on and his pack followed thought it was clear that none of them knew what they were talking about. (p. 51)



Jesus said that we would account for every idle word. That includes the words that we post on-line. If you are too lazy to do your own research about a particular leader to determine the truth or falsehood regarding accusations against him, the least you can do is remain silent. If you believe every rumor and out-of-context statement attributed to a particular leader, adding your own ignorant accusations and spewing all of it into the world, there is a very great possibility that you are a wolf. (p. 51)

Remember, all wolves are not in leadership. There are thousands of mangy curs wandering around in churches and in cyber-space, doing what they can to maul with many varieties of false teaching, including false teaching about false teaching. So examine yourself. Are you following wolves? It doesn’t take a master hunter to hear the howling of a pack and know what animals are making that noise. Be vigilant about your own heart. (p. 51)



Friends, God is using this book to teach me to pay more attention to what Jesus said about wolves in the Bible. Jesus is using this book in my life to prepare me for what is coming, and what is already here in the church today.

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:15-23, NKJV)

The wolves that Jesus is warning about are consummate actors. Until they reveal themselves to their victims, they look like true followers of His. Why are they so successful in carrying off the subterfuge? Like the most committed method actors, they have convinced themselves that they really are sheep. And not just any old sheep, the very best and finest of the flock. Even while they maul and pillage, they refuse to think of themselves as wolves. (P. 69-70)

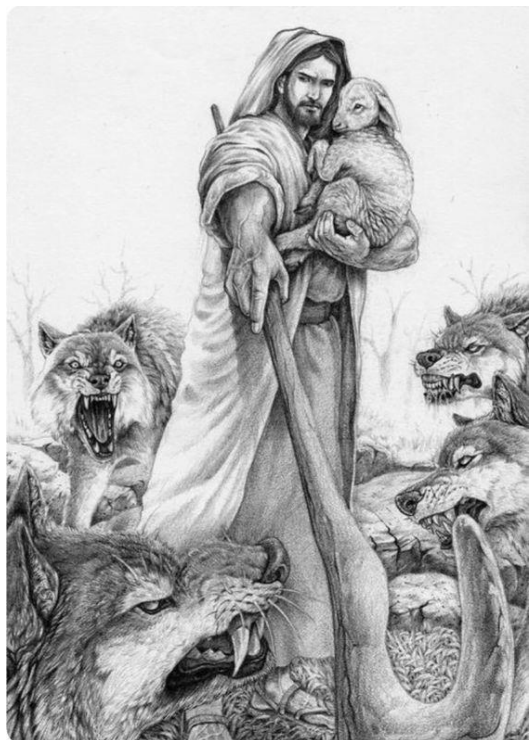
In Jesus warning in Matthew 7, it is strongly implied that when most spiritual wolves stand before Him someday they will be shocked to discover that they have never been part of His flock. They will argue with Him, trying to prove their sheephood by their success in ministry. It will be eternally devastating for them to discover that, though they had convinced themselves they were sheep, in reality they were wolves. His words will strip them of the sheepskin suits that had camouflaged them to the depths of their souls. (p. 71)

When Jesus uses the word "many," that's got to mean a very large number. And the words "practice lawlessness" are powerful. In the original language they imply working at a career of evil lawbreaking as though it were a craft or a trade. If you're going to become good at something you have to believe in it and work hard at it for a long time. That's what Process Wolves do. And as with any craft, they get better at it over time. But how can you live that way? What would you need to believe about yourself? (p. 71)

If you are a writer in Hollywood, there is a basic rule you must follow if you want to create realistic antagonists or villains in your scripts. Here's the rule: The villain always believes that he is the real hero of the story and when you are dealing with his character, you have to write him that way. (p. 71)

The greatest antagonist in the universe is Satan, the monstrous fallen angel once called Lucifer, the Light Bearer. I am convinced that, in his monumental pride and commitment to lies, he considers himself the real hero of the cosmic history. In his mind, he has a justification for every horrific, brutal act of rebellion that he has ever perpetrated. The fact that Christians don't consider him the hero fills him with rage and a cosmic case of self-pity. I'm sure he believes that he has been terribly misunderstood. He had to do what he did, there was no other choice. Whatever he has become, he was forced into it. None of it is his fault, it's God's fault. And on and on. (P. 71-72)

It is interesting that, more and more, both in occult literature and popular culture, Satan/Lucifer and those who live lives of evil following him, are being presented as heroes. More and more, absolute evil is being fed to us as the only logical alternative for these twisted protagonists without the slightest intrusion of love, grace, repentance, and mercy. All of this is in preparation for the End of Days, when the ultimate Satanic Wolf Hero will be presented as the savior of the human race. (P. 72)



¹⁶ "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless^[a] as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. ²¹ "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house ^[a]Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! ²⁶ Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

²⁷ "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in ^[a]hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a ^[a]copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. ³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to 'set^[a] a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶ and 'a man's enemies *will be* those of his *own* household.' ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his

cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

⁴⁰ "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹ He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." (Matthew 10:16-42, NKJV)

The final chapter of his book is titled, *A Letter to Young Christian Leaders*. Coleman Luck shares a series of warnings that I believe are spot on. Let me highlight the final warning in his list of seven warnings.

Warning: Do not fail to watch for the unexpected Return of the King.

In Luke 18:8 Jesus asked a haunting question: "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he really find faith on the earth?" (p. 362)

Could He have been serious? That sounds so impossible. There are millions of Christians. Don't they all have faith? What kind of faith was he talking about then? Faith that He was actually going to return at all, faith that was watching and expecting His return. The implication of Jesus' question is clear. That kind of expectant faith could vanish from the earth. We are in that day. (p. 362)

Never in my lifetime have I seen fewer Christians watching for the return of Jesus. And He told His followers to watch diligently. Why aren't we obeying? There are several reasons: First, the very idea of it is mocked in popular culture, making many weak, immature Christians embarrassed to talk about it. The mockery and embarrassment grow every time Satan raises up a deluded person who decides that he knows when the return will take place. When he is discredited, the entire subject goes down with him. It is an effective ploy to keep people's minds away from the soon-coming King. (p. 362)

There is another reason: Biblical preaching and teaching about the Lord's return have been relegated to specialized studies of prophecy, the domain of professional scholars and the popularizers that follow them. As they present the minutiae of their arguments in various forms, prophecy becomes divorced from any practical application to spiritual life. Rather than watch for His return, sophisticated Christians prefer to defend their chosen eschatological positions. (p. 362-363)

For the average Christian, the weeds are just too thick. Their controlling view is that people have been waiting for His return for centuries and it hasn't happened, so let's just not think about it. This keeps their eyes on the world, exactly where Satan and his wolves want them. As a servant warrior for the King, you cannot afford to fall into traps that will silence you. Warn people about his soon return. Watch for the Signs of the Times and there are more of them every week. (p. 363)

A Great Delusion is being prepared. When it arrives, it will be so vast, so apparently real and all-encompassing, that it will seem like insanity to stand against it. The outlines of it are all around us. When it arrives, it will be during a time of overwhelming darkness and will appear to bring salvation from Beyond. It will seem to prove with scientific certainty that Jesus is not who the Bible says He is. It will focus the world's attention onto a different god. (p. 363)

Purveying this lie will be a generation of wolves more empowered and dangerous than any ever seen before. Large numbers of people who call themselves Christians will fall away. Do not be one of them. Look for the Return of the King and warn those given into your care. (p. 363)

A servant warrior lives a life worthy to be attacked. In faith, he or she takes risks for Jesus. The lives of servant warriors are not dedicated to the accumulation of comforts and protection or worldly success. In

the Name of the Lord, a servant warrior is committed to doing enough damage to the enemy by fighting to set prisoners free, that the enemy's attention is drawn to him. He or she is not surprised at being attacked. (p. 364)

Most of all, a servant warrior obeys His Lord who has said, "Fear not, for I am with you." To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. (Revelation 2:17-18) (p. 364)



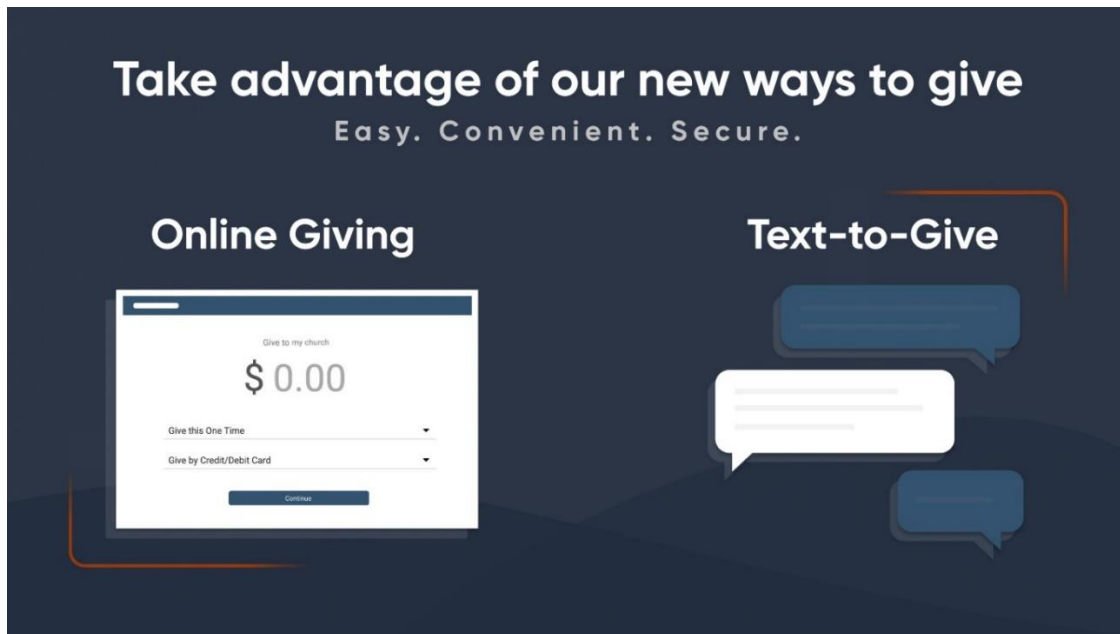
I thank God for Coleman Luck and the time and effort he put into writing this powerful and timely book. I know from personal experience what Coleman has written about is true, because I have personally lived through much of it. I have already recommended this book to several people.

Coleman provided his email address near the end of the book. I have learned that authors deeply appreciate it when you thank them for their work. And the more specific you are in thanking them, the more they appreciate it. So, I wrote an email to Coleman, thanking him for writing this book with several detailed statements about why it was so powerful. Unfortunately, when the email bounced back, I learned it is no longer valid. I will continue to search for his current contact information.

On Friday morning, December 13, 2019, I enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and life-giving conversation with Jon VerLee, Founder and President of Breeze Church Management Software. I was looking for a simple, user friendly, effective, small non-profit ministry budget friendly, relational database system. A friend told me about Jon and mentioned that he developed the Breeze system for small churches who don't have IT professionals on staff. I was delighted when Jon accepted my invitation to treat him to breakfast. Jon is a wonderful young man of God with a vibrant faith and passionate love of Jesus Christ. Breeze makes church software simple. Breeze is used by more than 9,000 churches to organize people, track giving, manage events, and more. I signed up for Breeze the next week. It is a great system!

On August, 26, 2022, I received a phone call from a Breeze consultant named Wesley, offering to help me set up the Online Giving feature in Breeze. Wesley offered to help set up the On-Line Giving and the Text-to-Give features that are already part of our \$67 a month fee. He also informed me that Breeze is

running a special promotion for account holders who activate their Online Giving and Text-to-Give functions during the month of September. **When people begin making donations this September, Breeze will wave the \$67 per month fee for the next six months!** WOW! I accepted Wesley's help!



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Our son Matt was the first person to test our new Online Giving system by making his monthly contribution to PastorCare West Michigan. It worked beautifully! Sue and I were the second ones to make our monthly contribution to PastorCare West Michigan through our new Online Giving system.

We are inviting you to be the next person to test our new Online Giving or Text-to-Give system.

You may choose a recurring monthly gift, which will be an incredible blessing to us! Or a one-time gift which will also be an incredible blessing to us! Everyone giving a little will advance our ministry a lot!

Thank you in advance from the bottom of our hearts!!



Thank you for partnering with PastorCare West Michigan to advance the Kingdom of God through your prayers and financial donations.

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