

FAKE VS. REAL

SCRIPTURE:

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; (1 Thessalonians 5: 21)

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Toy Lawnmower

MAIN MESSAGE:

We must study the Word of God so that we are able to separate the teaching that is according to God from what is not.

SONG: "Break My Heart"

LESSON:

I love when my boy follows me around the yard with his toy lawnmower. As I progress around cutting the grass, he is right behind me as if the bubbles blowing out the side were the grass clippings. For some, mowing the grass is a chore that must be done because the neighborhood association tells you your grass must be cut, but for others it can be an enjoyable and rewarding activity to take pride in. I fall somewhere in the middle of those two groups. I do feel a sense of accomplishment when the yard is cut, and appreciate my wife telling me how good it looks.

After spending a few hours in the yard, I come in to clean up, and my boy says, "Momma, look! I cut the grass". Wait just a second. I cut the grass! He just followed me around for a while until he realized throwing rocks in an ant bed would be more fun. While it is no big deal that my three-year-old takes the credit for cutting the grass, it can be a much bigger deal when we pretend to be a Christian when we are not.

We should never take what someone else says about God's Word as truth without first comparing it to God's Word. Jesus warns against such people who claim to teach the truth but are, in fact, teaching lies. He calls them "wolves in sheep's clothing". He even gives us a way to tell the real from the fake, and it is similar in how we tell an orange tree from an apple tree. If we examine their manner of life like we examine a fruit we want to buy, we will know if they are the real thing or simply a fake.

Anyone would know the difference between a real lawnmower and a toy lawnmower; perhaps the easiest would be that one actually cuts grass and the other blows bubbles. Careful and diligent study of God's word makes knowing a "false prophet" from a true teacher just as easy.

PRAYER: Help me to be a true light for You today.