

A Study of Matthew 10:16

# Sheep and Wolves, Serpents and Doves

# Sheep in the midst of wolves

- ◆ They were *sent* to tell the gospel of the kingdom – Mt. 28:18-20
- ◆ They were sent by *Christ's authority* – Mt. 10:27-28
- ◆ They were sent to face *imminent danger* – 1 Pet. 4:4

# Wise as Serpents

- ◆ We are to have the *wisdom* of a snake...the most hated of animals! – Mt. 10:17-18, 24-26; Prov. 2:6; Jas. 1:5
- ◆ How to be wise as a snake?
  - ◆ Live a quiet life – 1 Thess. 4:10-12; Mark 5:18-20
  - ◆ Be persistent in finding a way for the gospel – Mt. 7:6

# Innocent as Doves

- ◆ Harmless is more properly translated *innocent*.
- ◆ Weakness or fearfulness is not implied – Mt. 10:22
- ◆ Innocence requires spiritual harmlessness!
  - ◆ We conquer as a sheep over wolves, and doves over eagles!
  - ◆ We must be gentle, loving, and provide blessings when we are mistreated – Phil. 4:5; Eph. 4:15; 1 Cor. 4:12-13