"Generation of Vipers"
Matt. 3:7-10

Introduction:
A. Strong words by John the Baptist
B. Fitting words for Pharisees and Sadducees.
   1. Deceitful and hypocritical. (cf. Mt. 12:34; 23:33)
   2. Probably wanted kingdom without repentance.
   3. Had a three-fold need:

Discussion:
I. They Needed To Flee Wrath To Come. (v. 7).
   A. Real wrath. (Matt. 23:33; Luke 16:28; Rom. 2:5,6,8).
   B. Severe wrath (Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 14:10,11)
      1. In its nature
      2. In its duration.
   C. Escapable wrath. ("Flee"; Rom. 2:5ff)
   D. Motivation for obedience. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10,11)
II. They Needed To Forsake False Security. (v. 9).
   A. Jews put trust in wrong things.
      1. Pedigree. (v. 9, Gal 3:29)
   B. We often put trust in wrong things.
      1. Wealth. (1 Tim. 6:17).
      2. Political systems. (Matt. 26:52; Rev. 6:14-17)
      3. Traditional Religion. (Matt. 15:3).
      5. "Church" position rather than Lord's position.
III. They Need To Bear Good Fruit. (vv. 8,10).
   A. Some have no "leaves" or "fruit". (Ps. 14:1).
   B. Some have "leaves only" (cf. Matt. 21:19).
      1. Pretense without action. (Rev. 3:1)
   C. Some have "evil fruit". (cf. Is. 5:4).
      1. Oppose truth. (3 Jno. 9).
      2. Promote "lawlessness" (Matt. 7:23).
      3. Immorality. (1 Cor. 5:1; Gal. 5:19-21).
   D. Some have "good fruit" - Actively serve. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 15:58)
      1. Obey first principles
      2. Worship regularly
      3. Work daily.

Conclusion:
1. "The axe is laid...."
2. Flee wrath and bear fruit.