

My neighbor brought us over a pan filled with home made cookies a few weeks back, and were they ever, really good. When somebody has a perfect recipe, it is a pleasure to partake of what was made. The goodness is memorable and everybody really wants to eat more of it. But, if someone else changes that recipe by adding to it or taking away some vital ingredients, it becomes totally polluted, distasteful and ruined.

The same thing happens when people arrogantly imagine they can add to God's holy righteous given word, or take away from it, according to the transgressions in their heart. They make up their own doctrines, like postponements of God's annual holy days and deny the plain and crystal clear teachings in God's word. By so doing, they totally pollute God's word for all those who listen to them. They take away God's proclaimed TRUTH! They take away God's promises of righteousness through faith and eternal life through believing in Jesus, the Christ. But, they will add all sorts of man-made traditions, rules, and laws by which they claim a person has to be saved. They add their own made-up rituals and claim their rituals are necessary, supposedly being the only way to please God.

There are many places throughout the Bible where we are warned about adding to God's word or taking away from it. A few examples include: Revelation 22. "For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev 22:18-19). Our Lord tells us, If any man add to the things written in this book of Revelation, they will suffer the plagues described in it!

Notice Moses exhortation to obedience in Deut 4:2, "You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." We find written in Proverbs 30:5-6, "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Pro 30: 5-6). Along with these verses are many warnings throughout the Old and New Testaments about false prophets and teachers, who malign and change the word of God.

So, how can we know if someone is trying to mislead us by preaching a message that adds to God's word, or takes away from it? We've got to open up our Bibles and get studying to "prove all things!" We cannot be lazy or uninterested in what our Lord of Lords is teaching us! We need to be like the people who lived in Berea. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed" Acts (17:11-12).

When we have reverence for God's word to us, we will value what God teaches us, and handle His word with great care — neither adding to it, nor taking away from it. 📖

