

“Don’t Tamper with the Word of God!”

Revelation 22:18-19

Revelation #54

A warning – A test of true and false teachers; a test of true and false faith.

1. To Whom is this Warning Addressed?

- (1) **To those in the church** v. 18a *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book:”*
- cf. Rev. 1:3
 - Consider the OT Background / Parallel Warning Deut. 4:1-2; 12:32
Addressed to the covenant nation, the people of God

(2) **A warning against both those who foster false teaching, and those who follow it.**

2. What Portion of the Scriptures is referenced here?

v. 18a

- (1) **Primarily: The Words of this Book** *“If anyone adds to these things...if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy...”*
- “the prophecy of this book...these things...the words of the book of this prophecy”
- (2) **But...to thus violate or tamper with the Inscripturated Word:**
- 1- Is to violate *all* of the Scriptures!
 - 2- Betrays an *unbelief* in the Word of God as inspired, authoritative, and unique.

3. What does it mean to “Add to” or “Take away from” the Revelatory Words?

- (1) **Consider the companion OT warnings of Deuteronomy** Deut. 4:1-3; 12:29-32
- 1- To undermine or teach contrary to the revelation already given by God
 - 2- To compromise with the idolatry and worship of the surrounding pagan nations

(2) Specific Applications:

- 1- To propose *some other word* as authoritative “This is *also* a word from God.”**
- Teaching that other rival “holy books” are also to be treated as authoritative, or are to be revered as the Bible. “We can learn from other faith traditions!” cf. Deut. 12:30
 - Putting forth some new “prophetic word” as equally authoritative.
- 2- To teach doctrine that is *clearly contrary* to that revealed in the Word of God**
- 1 Jn. 2:22-23; 4:1-3 - e.g., Jesus Christ is not God.
Jesus Christ is not the only way to the Father
- 3- To undermine *in any way* the authority of the Holy Scriptures**
- Those who teach such; those who embrace such
 - Those who dismiss the words of Scripture:
 - Teaching that the Bible has errors
 - Teaching that the only some of the words of Jesus are authentic
 - Rejecting certain portions or the Scripture or certain doctrines of the Scripture

4. How are we to understand the Punishment, the Curse indicated here?

- (1) **Addressing especially those who have professed faith** *“If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words... God shall take away his part from the tree of life, from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.”*
- (2) **God’s perfect justice emphasized** “an eye for an eye”

(3) Eternal judgment!

- Such a one suffers the plagues of this book
- Such a one is forever excluded from the tree of life

True Christians losing, forfeiting their salvation? No!
Those of false faith losing what they supposed they possessed.