

Beginnings Famous & Endings

Revelation 22:18-19

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. “”

It's sure convenient that the writer gives a curse to anyone who adds words to his writing. At the end of the Old Testament, Malachi says to follow all that was written down. That God will send Elijah before the terrible day of the Lord. I guess that is a warning and curse too. If we don't follow God, Malachi says destruction will follow. I think the writers take the word of God serious. Yes, it's convenient, but it could also be seen as very serious.

Let's look at it from God's side. Jesus is said to be divine and human. God's inspired word is written by humans that were divinely inspired. It shows Gods way and power. The Bible also shows humanity at its's best and worst. It would make sense that someone would try and twist Gods word just as the serpent did in Genesis 3. *Did God say?* Since Jesus was crucified, people have created hundreds of churches based on Jesus teachings. Some have added words and others have ignored some parts. Why?

We all believe certain truths about Jesus and God. Our beliefs don't always line up with the word of God. So, we manipulate some parts so that the Bible fits us. The writer of Revelation would have seen this even in the 1st century. Jesus said there would be many false Christs. Who has the real church of God? That is a very good question. They say to pick a good Bible

following church. That is near impossible. Every denomination has a different bent on the Bible. They all do. Who is right?

Here is my measly advice. Know your Bible. Pick a literal translation. Stay clear of interpretation Bibles. You will not find a church that fits the Bible perfectly. “You” follow God’s word. A church does not hold the claim on the Bible. Just pick one that believes in creation by God, Jesus died and rose from the dead, and that the Word is totally from Gods heart to us. The rest is sparsely individual interpretation.

I had a friend who swore by the extra commentary in his Bible as God’s word. It’s not. Just know the word and let God speak. That is why they said to be weary of adding or subtracting. Why the destruction warning? It’s partly because those people want God to fit them and their twisted beliefs. That always leads the wrong way. Stick to the word we were given and not those who want to shape it their way.

1 Corinthians 4:6 “Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.”