

Progress or Apostasy

From the beginning of time God expressed the principle of not adding to, nor taking away from His word, i.e., “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you” (Deut. 4:2). Which was also echoed in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, saying, “I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which 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 from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.” (Rev. 22:18-19).

Though the warnings have been read, and re-read, throughout the ages, man continues to, as Peter affirmed, “But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of. And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth not, and their destruction slumbereth not.” (2 Pet. 2:1-3). As it were in the days of Jeremiah, Jehovah affirmed, “The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them: they prophesy unto you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their own heart. Therefore thus saith Jehovah concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land: By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed” (Jer. 14:15).

Over the ages “peace” has been the message of false teachers, who “have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). Society has lost the understanding that spiritual warfare is underway. Paul affirmed it, saying, “Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against

the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:10-12). Thus, he admonished Timothy, saying, “This charge I commit unto thee, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to thee, that by them thou mayest war the good warfare; holding faith and a good conscience; which some having thrust from them made shipwreck concerning the faith” (1 Tim. 1:18-19). To fulfill his charge Timothy was to understand that he would be equipped through his adherence to “Hold the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim. 1:18), and know that “Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It’s just like shuckin’ corn: when finished there will be no question as to whether a “work” is good, or evil.

The apostle Paul affirmed that “God is not a God of confusion, but of peace” (1 Cor. 14:33). Everyone who is “in Christ” will affirm that to be the case. However, every man, woman or collective claiming to be “in Christ,” that does not adhere to the scriptures, and directs their own path, make God a liar. ret