

## March 21st – Adding To Or Taking From the Word

*“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”  
(Deut. 4:2)*

Deuteronomy literally means “second law” – in this case, the second giving of the law after the children of Israel had wandered the wilderness for 40 years. Moses wanted to remind the children of Israel of the covenant they had previously entered into with the Lord. God’s covenant with Israel was governed by commands that the Israelites were expected to keep. Throughout their history, God was very clear that failure to adhere to those commands would result in swift retribution.

Moses wanted to make one thing very clear – no one was to add to his words or delete any of his comments. Of course, we know that Moses was simply repeating the Word that God had given him, so in essence Moses was commanding the children of Israel not to add or take anything away from the Word of God. This verse is reminiscent to Rev. 1:18-19 – “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 of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

You might think that you’ve never added anything to Scripture or taken anything away, but we might want to look a little closer. Anytime we’ve added other books to the Bible, we’ve added to the Word. Anytime we’ve minimized the truthfulness of any text, we’ve taken away from the Scripture. Ask yourself – is it possible that I’m adding or taking away from the Word? If the answer is yes, do what it takes today to make sure that you’re clinging only to the Word of God. Only scripture has the power to make us “complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17).