

## Deuteronomy 5:22

*These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.*

When I was reading Deuteronomy this morning and came to today's verse, there was one phrase that jumped out to me, and that was. "***and He added no more***" and if you read the verses right before this, it was Moses reminding the Children of Israel of the Ten Commandments that God have given to them. So when Moses says "***and He added no more***" he is saying that God did not add any additional commandments to those ten. Yet how often do some people add to God's word, or even take away from it, based upon what they like or dislike?

Way back in the day, all they had were pianos and organs for worship in the churches, and once in a while a violin may be played. And when they started to add guitars, basses, electric guitars, drums, and other instruments, it became a scandal, because "God does not like those things in the church, those are devil instruments." At least that's what the people thought or said. But there was absolutely no scriptural reference behind it. In fact, if you wanted to get technical, scripture does say,

† **Psalm 150:3-5** *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*

Which says that we are to praise Him with all the instruments that we can, and not only that, but play them loud "***Praise Him with loud cymbals***" and did you catch what else "***Praise Him with the timbrel and dance.***" Even now people will judge Christian concerts and think that all they want to do is bring attention to themselves, which in 95% of the cases is false. Sure there are those very, very few who are seeking their own glory, and honestly, they are usually one hit wonders and fall away from the Christian music scene quickly.

But you know what, I would rather go to, and even have my kids and grandkids go to a Christian concert with all the lights and smoke and loud music, dancing and sing out loud with all our might to the Lord, then have myself or them go to a concert that glorifies the person on stage and satan. Sorry, but for some of you, it's time to get off your pew and sing out loud and dance with all your might unto the Lord.

† **2 Samuel 6:14a** *Then David danced before the LORD with all his might.*

But that's just worship. But what about other things that people like or dislike? How many times have you heard, or maybe even said yourself, "*God doesn't like that*" or "*That's a sin*" without any scriptural reference to back it up? Once again, those who say such things, say it based upon

what they like or don't like, but there is no scripture to back it up. But some will even twist God's word to make it sound good, but it's totally out of context.

- ☺ Tattoos, or no Tattoos?
- ☺ Men with long hair or short hair?
- ☺ Women wearing only dresses, or can they wear pants at church?
- ☺ Can I have a drink, or should all Christians be 100% alcohol free?
- ☺ To be well off financially, or live in poverty for the Lord?
- ☺ Stand up and raise hands in church during worship, or just sit there as you sing?
- ☺ Must we take Sunday off, or can it be another day that we have for our sabbath rest?

We can go on and on. But if you read just my examples, each person reading them would answer one way or another based upon what they like or dislike, or what they think is right or what they think is wrong. But unless we have solid scripture, using it in the context that it was written in to back it up, then we should stop judging or saying things to others based upon what we like, dislike, or want. Because when we do, we are adding to God's word, and if "***He added no more***" then what makes us think we can?

- † **Romans 14:13** *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*
  
- † **James 4:11-12 (NLT2)** *Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?*