Good Morning!

You must be careful to do everything I am commanding you. Do not add to it or subtract from it! Deuteronomy 12:32

Let’s look at Deuteronomy this morning and in particular, false prophets. That may seem like a strange topic for us today. We don’t have any real prophets as they had in Israel. There is the occasional modern church that claims prophets, but their prophecies are nothing like Israel’s prophets. Those modern prophets are largely ignored, even by their own adherents.

What we do have is people with large followings that lead people astray. Their message is about themselves, and their authority is themselves. They are glitzy, and they are glib - well run ministries without a Biblical message. They are always quoting and using the Bible, but only that part that will support them. They are not interested in the lost, only the confused. They preach a “salvation” found in membership in their ministry. Jesus is a tool, a prop, an icon to be held up as a “our goal” - but His message is not preached.

Why do we face these slick charlatans? The Lord explains this in Deuteronomy 13:1-4. The Lord allows such in our midst to test us. This is not a test to cause us to fail, but one to hone our senses to understand right from wrong.

How does this test us? When the prophecy of this false prophet comes true! For those who love miracles over the Lord Himself, will follow the miracle man where ever he leads. But the outworking of a miracle is not the test of truth, the Word of God is. We do not follow miracles, which may be false; (Rev. 13:14-15) we follow the Word.

Our test is, “for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

Today we do not have many prophets proclaiming a new word from the Lord, but we have lots who lead people after themselves. They don’t have prophecies that come true, but they have ministries that are large and “successful.”

Our guidelines for ministry truth are not glitzy trappings, but the Word of God. That means we love the Lord our God more than these things. If we love Him first and foremost, then the error, or omission contained in their ministry, will be so offensive we cannot tolerate it. To intentionally veer from the truth or to leave out any precious point of truth is intolerable for you. Why? Because “You follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and… *cling* to Him.”

The test for us this morning and every morning is – do we follow the Lord our God and cling to Him?

In Christ Jesus, who is our Truth…

Pastor EA