

## Putting Words in God's Mouth

House speaker Nancy Pelosi made the following statement on August 4, 2007: "As it says in the Bible, 'To minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship, to ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us.'" (<http://www.house.gov/pelosi/press/releases/Aug07/new-energy-direction.html>). Apparently she is so proud of this statement that she has uttered it at least four other times. The trouble is that this statement is not found anywhere in the pages of God's inspired Word. In fact, there is nothing in the pages of the Bible that even suggests such an idea.

Is Mrs. Pelosi the first to claim that God said something that He actually didn't say? She most certainly is not. Go all the way back to the Garden of Eden and you'll find the subtle serpent saying to Eve regarding the forbidden fruit, "Ye shall not surely die." (Genesis 3:4). The Lord had specifically told the first human couple that if they did eat of the fruit of that particular tree, "thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17). The serpent added only a single word ("not") but even a single, seemingly insignificant addition to God's Word can lead to devastating results (Genesis 3:16ff). In the New Testament we read of some who were advocating a doctrine which required one to "touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using." (Colossians 2:21-22). Again, this was an attempt to take an unauthorized doctrine and make it appear that it was Divine in origin.

Proverbs 30:5,6 reads, "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Because every word of God is pure, man can do nothing to improve upon them. As is evident in the examples cited above, those who do go beyond God's Word are eventually exposed as liars.

Since it is by God's Word that we shall be judged (John 12:48), it is by God's Word that we must live (Matthew 4:4). Adding our words to the Bible (or taking God's words away from it for that matter) is not only deceitful but can lead our souls and the souls of others away from the Lord. Why would God expend the effort over a several thousand year period to inspire writers to pen exactly what He wanted them to say if it didn't matter to Him if someone came along later and added to or took from His words? The apostle Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27). In I Corinthians 2:1ff Paul declared that the power of his preaching was not due to his speaking talents or persuasive personality but was instead due to the fact that the words of his preaching came from the Lord.

In Psalm 119, the Psalmist penned many statements of tribute to God's Word. "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." (verse 97). "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (verse 103). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (verse 105). "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." (verse 140). The statements of honor paid to God's Word in just this single Psalm could go on and many others throughout the Bible could be added to them, each of which would remind us that man cannot, and thus should not even try to, improve upon the perfect Word of God.

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