

## A Word of Warning

*“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die”* (Deuteronomy 18:20). The Lord gave a stern warning to those who would contemplate speaking for God. God made it very plain, that if anyone is speaking for Him, he better speak the truth and nothing but the truth. God gave the people a way to test the prophets and separate the true from the false. *“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him”* (Deuteronomy 18:22). God has not left us to be the prey to those today who would in whatever way misrepresent the God of heaven. *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). The Bible in other places gives ways of knowing truth from error. *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world”* (1 John 4:1).

Today, just as in other ages, the world is filled with false teachers. The airwaves are filled with all manner of false teachers preying on the trusting souls of the world. Many are preaching doom and destruction. Several weeks ago a man dropped by the church building to talk with me because “The Lord said to stop in and talk to that man.” I would have felt somewhat better if the Lord had told him to stop and chat with Bill. In the course of the conversation (actually it was during the course of me listening to this fellow), he said the Lord told him some great tragedy was going to take place in the United States of America this summer. Nothing specific, but just something really bad will take place.

Many are claiming special powers. The faith healers are in abundance in our country deceiving folks right and left. I don't have any patience with this group of false teachers. In the first place if they could actually heal the sick and raise the dead, why don't they do it? Oral Roberts is the king of the faith healers. Guess what? He built a hospital! Why? If I could lay hands on some one and heal them of cancer and any number of infirmities I would be a permanent fixture at the hospital. Several years ago, the late Lewis Grizzard wrote an article about faith healers, a lady fell and broke her leg and some said, “call an ambulance”, no need to do that said another, “Brother Roy Dodd can heal her.” Brother Roy said, “I don't do no broken bones, just vital organs.”

All preachers who are preaching things not found in the Bible are to heed the word of warning.

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