



﴿قَوْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَكْتُوبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا قَوْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا كُتِبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾ (٧٩)

(سورة البقرة: ٧٩)

2:79. Then woe to those who write the scripture with their own hands, and then say: This is from Allah, in order to trade it for a small price! Woe to them for what their hands have written, and woe to them for what they have earned thereby.

Here Allah (ﷻ) is warning that those who distort the scriptures and say of the distortion and what they write: «This is from Allah». In fact this is propagating falsehood and concealing truth. But they did that knowingly, «in order to trade it for a small price». All of this world, from beginning to end, is a small price. They made their falsehood a means of snatching what is in people's hands. Thus they wronged the people on two counts: they confused them with regard to their religion and they took their wealth unlawfully, by the worst of means, which is worse than those who take people's wealth by force or by stealing and so on. Hence Allah warned them about these two things and said: «Woe to them for what their hands have written» of distortion and falsehood «and woe to them for what they have earned thereby» of wealth. What is meant by woe is severe punishment and loss. This is a stern warning indeed.

Shaykh al-Islām (Ibn Taymiyah) said, when discussing this passage «Do you [O believers] then hope... for what they have earned thereby» (vv. 75-79):

Allah condemned those who distorted words, and this includes those who explain or teach the Qur'an and Sunnah on the basis of innovation [*bid'ah*].