

ROAD SIGNS OF LIFE **PROVERBS 3:5-6**

Life - Something that we all deal with each and every day. There are so many different ways that people can talk about their lives and there are thousands of metaphors to which people compare their lives. I've heard some individuals, as we talked about last week, compare their life to a race. For some it's a cross-country race and for most, it always seems uphill. For others, their life seems to be more of a circus. Their life is always exciting and things are always going on. For others life is like a storm; bad things always seem to happen to them. It seems as if a little thundercloud is constantly following them around and raining on their parade. What about it being like a drive on the highway through life?

Have you ever really looked at all the different signs posted along the roadway when you are driving in your car? There are hundreds of different signs posted along the road. Some of the signs have words of warning and some have commands, but they are all there to serve a purpose: protect us from harm. Despite the fact that we might believe we need to drive 75 mph to get to our destination, the police know 55 is the legal limit. Or even if we think we know the roads we are on like the back of our hand, the "curve ahead" sign is there to remind us of the sharp turn we are about to take.

Just as the highway patrol puts signs up to guide us and protect us, God has put signs along our "road" in life to serve the same purpose. He is not wanting our lives to be confusing or for us to lose our way, but He wants us to follow his commands and guidelines to lead us in the right direction. Just as with the road signs, if we choose not to follow these commands, we will have to face the consequences. No, not those blue and red lights in our rearview mirror, but the chastening hand of God. So what are some of those signs we need to be on the lookout for?

SIGNS TO KEEP US FROM EVIL

There are many signs that God has placed in our lives that are used to keep us out of situations we do not want to take part in or to turn from situations that we do not need to be a part of. These signs are put in place so that when we see them we will become more aware of our surroundings and make the right choices.

DO NOT ENTER

These signs are usually located when you are at the intersection of two streets with one being a ONE WAY street. The sign says DO NOT ENTER because if you choose to enter, then you will be meeting oncoming traffic. There are times in our lives when God is screaming at us, not to enter into certain situations. We know that God would not be leading us that way, as all it is going to bring in our lives is trouble. We need to realize this and heed the warning that God is telling us.

WRONG WAY AND ONE WAY

These signs are used on streets where vehicles can only travel in one direction. You will see the WRONG WAY sign when you are traveling the wrong direction on a ONE WAY street. God puts these signs in our lives all the time. He tells us that there is only ONE WAY to Him and we must stay on the narrow path. Matthew tells us that Jesus said, "I am the WAY, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me." Sometimes in our lives, even after we have become Christians, we take a wrong turn. God puts signs in our life to tell us that we are going the WRONG WAY and we need to turn around quickly. All of us were heading the WRONG WAY before we accepted Christ into our lives and Christ put us on the right street once we accepted Him as our Savior.

NO U TURN

These signs are usually seen on parkways and interstates to inform drivers that they are not allowed to turn around and go the other direction. Fortunately for us, our Savior is not like that. Even when we make mistakes and start heading in the wrong direction, God wants us to make that U TURN in our lives. He wants us to turn from our sin, 180 degrees, and start again on the path towards Him. Our God is a loving and forgiving God, He gives us many opportunities to make those U TURNS and start again.

SIGNS TO HELP US FOCUS

Sometimes in our lives we get so busy that we do not take the time to listen to God's voice and follow His guidance in our lives. God puts signs in our lives to make us stop, just for a moment, and to be still and know that He is God and can take care of us.

STOP

Everyone knows what a STOP SIGN is and what you are supposed to do at a STOP SIGN. We are supposed to pull up to the sign, come to a complete stop, look both ways and then proceed with caution. This does not mean a rolling stop or a half stop, but a full, complete stop. There are many times in our lives when we need to stop and look both ways. Maybe there is a huge decision that you have to make and you don't know which way you should turn. It is our job at this time to STOP and look both ways and decide which way God is wanting us to turn. We must sit still and meditate on which particular way God is leading us in our lives.

YIELD

YIELD signs are posted where one lane of traffic must give way to oncoming traffic. If the person who is required to YIELD fails to do so, the result will likely be an accident. In our lives God puts up many YIELD signs. He wants us to YIELD to our own desires and give way to His desires. We must YIELD to the wants, desires, and temptations that we have and allow God to take control of our life. If we do not YIELD to our own desires then we will likely get injured spiritually as we live for ourselves and not for Christ.

RR CROSSING

The funny thing about RR CROSSING signs is that most people do not realize that we are supposed to stop, look both ways, and listen. Most of us do not follow this rule properly, but if you have ever seen a school bus cross the tracks, you have seen it performed correctly. School bus drivers will stop before the RR CROSSING, look both ways, and even open the door to listen for an oncoming train. Just as with the STOP SIGN, God puts some RR CROSSING signs in our lives when we must STOP where we are at and listen to God's voice to guide us.

OTHER SIGNS

ROAD WORK AHEAD

This sign is to warn us of the construction that will be occurring on the road ahead. When we see this sign, we can be expecting a possible DETOUR. In our lives, there are going to be times when we have "construction" going on. When we have storms or bumps in the road we must continue to follow God's guidance as He leads us around the rough road. During these times, going might seem slow, but God will lead you out to the other side.

SLOW, CHILDREN AT PLAY

When we see one of these signs, we know that we are on a road where children play close by. This means that we need to drive more slowly and keep our eyes open. We have to be watching out for the children and protecting them by our safe driving. In our lives there are going to be people who watch every move we make and hope to be just like us. We need to be careful of the things we say and do in order to help and protect them from being led astray.

MILE MARKERS

Everyone has seen mile markers along the side of the road that help to give direction and to show how far we have driven and how far we have to go. In our lives there are certain mile markers of achievement that we need to reach and others that we need to remember. God wants us to remember where we came from and also to have an eye out as to where we are headed.

JCT

This sign is seen at any junction or cross road. When we come to one of these signs, it is letting us know that there is an intersection ahead where traffic will be crossing. It is at these signs that we must decide which road we will take. We must seek God's guidance as to where we are to be going and in which direction we should go. These decisions can greatly affect our lives so we must be careful to listen to His voice for direction.

Wow! All of these road signs are not just there for traffic reasons, but can be used to help us in our Christian walk. So the next time you are driving or riding with someone and you come across a road sign, let it be a reminder of all that God has done and continues to do for you.

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