

The Bulwark

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DO WE REALLY NEED WARNINGS LABELS?

They live among us. Who you may well ask; people who do stupid things that then cause manufacturers and others to affix warning labels on their products. "Remove child before folding" can be seen

clearly on baby strollers. "Not Intended For Highway Use" appears on some new wheelbarrows, as if. The next example is rather self explanatory, "Caution! Hot!

Avoid Pouring On Crotch Area" can be found on "to go" cups from various coffee houses. On a dishwasher the following sign is found in plain view, "Do Not Allow Children To Play On Dishwasher" A cautionary on a box of rat poison, "WARNING! Has Been Found To Cause Cancer In Lab Mice". Okay, we want mice/rats dead, but no cancer!? Perhaps the most obvious is a label found of shirt, "Do Not Iron While Wearing Shirt"

Warning is defined as being an alarm, signal, summons, or admonition. Indeed there are times when we do need warnings and admonitions, but come on, those labels noted above who would do such vacuous things? Well, apparently enough to warrant the cautionary. Let's not become smug, when it



comes to life we at times act foolishly. It is no wonder then why, as one reads through the pages of God's word, that it not only contains beautiful promises and words of encouragement, it is also filled with solemn warnings.

These warnings are meant to guide, protect and to some degree awaken us. Warnings that span the realm of both physical and spiritual. To ignore these warnings spell disaster. King Solomon writes in Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* In the thirteenth chapter he writes, *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."*

Most assuredly warnings do matter in the Scriptures, for on one hand they serve to protect from sin and destruction. Whereas on the other hand the warnings have contained within them a call to repentance and a return to God. But then there are warnings that alert to coming trials as well divine judgment (see 2Peter 3:1-13)

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1Timothy 6:10) A

direct warning that holds true today as when it was first issued. *"Flee sexual immorality..."* (1Corinthians 6:18) Remember the definition of immorality as being "any sexual activity that takes place outside the boundaries of marriage as defined by Scripture specifically, a covenant union between one man and one woman" (see also Romans 1:24-32; Galatians 6:19) Consider as well another warning, *"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."* (James 4:6) Pride is often the precursor to downfall, while humility is the antidote the Bible prescribes.

Give heed to God's warnings. They are for our benefit. (wbe)

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