

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

Special Edition

❖ SEPTEMBER 2019 ❖

Special Edition

On Life's Road

Road Signs to Help You Reach Your Destination Safely

Traveling "Life's Road" to reach your heavenly destination (home with God) requires you to be alert and careful to obey all "road signs." The journey requires due diligence, for there are numerous hindrances, difficulties, and distractions along the way. **Don't lose sight of the goal!**

Here are some timeless words of wisdom.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.
Psalm 119:9

Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.
Psalm 86:11

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
Psalm 32:8

Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.
Psalm 25:12

So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.
Psalm 2:20

Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.
Psalm 110:27

Your Journey

Decide On Your Destination

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Choose the Correct Route

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 14:6

Count the Cost

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"

Luke 14:27-30

Put Forth the Effort

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

Don't Be Sidetracked

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.

2 Peter 3:17



NO TURNING AROUND

After one said, "I will follow you [Jesus]," he began to offer excuses. But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62

Sin definitely has allure. One may begin to reconsider what was given up to follow Jesus. But going back to old ways of living puts one in an unenviable position.

While enjoying the previous lifestyle, the one source of salvation is lost. To have gained salvation in Christ and then lose it is worse because there is no other source.

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "a dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

2 Peter 2:20-22

NO TURNING BACK

But my righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:38-39

WHEN THINGS GET ROUGH

You've probably driven on some roads that were so rough they made the ride very uncomfortable, even miserable. But you realized you just had to endure it. It's was the only road. Becoming upset would not change a thing except your disposition (for the worse).

There are rough places on Life's Road as well. They are difficult to endure. There is only one way that leads to life. Financial bumps, health issues, emotional stress, spiritual challenges, certainly can make it rough going. If not careful, one can lose control or just give up.

A journey begins with the first step (becoming a disciple) and the journey is traveled day by day (being a disciple), and it is completed when the destination is reached.

BODY-SOUL-SPIRIT

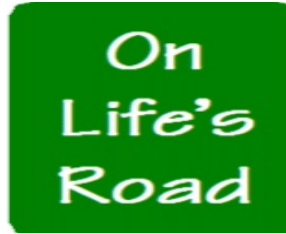
Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Man is created in God's image with a physical body, soul (affections, emotions,), and spirit (the inner man). Each has an effect on the other parts. So be careful to preserve them all without blame.

A DISCIPLE'S CORRUPT SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

Judas conceived in his heart a way to betray Jesus. He carried out his plan. He felt remorse and struggled to live with the guilt. He tried to return the money. Sadly, in despair he hanged himself.



STOP, CAUTION, GO

STOP

Do not go. To do so is dangerous.

CAUTION

Proceed slowly, be ready to stop.

GO

Move on. Proceed forward.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

There is a time to stop, a time to be cautious, and a time to go. Obeying the law at all times is critical to safe driving. To go on a red light is foolhardy and not going on a green light is foolish or just not paying attention.

On Life's Road there are times to stop, be cautious, and go.

STOP – Do not go when God says don't.

Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God.

I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:34

CAUTION – Be aware of your surroundings.

Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:27-28

GO – Press on, pursue the goal.

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity,

Hebrews 6:1

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12

ROUTE CHANGED

Sometimes when driving we come upon a detour sign. For one reason or another the road ahead is blocked. It's not what we expected and it is definitely an inconvenience, But we must follow the signs carefully to go around the blocked road.

DETOURS HAPPEN ON LIFE'S ROAD

It's not what we planned to encounter. But there it is. We have no choice. We must adjust our route. Rather than bemoan having to alter our plans, accept the present circumstances and make the best of it. Internal and external problems often cause a change in plans. A blocked career path, an accident, a serious illness, and other happenings all call for going where we did not plan to go. But if we carefully follow God's guidance we will be able to negotiate the detours and safely reach our destination.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

PLANNED ROUTE BLOCKED

They [Paul, Silas, and Timothy] passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Acts 16:6-8



RULES OF THE ROAD

Without rules and regulations driving on today's roads would be chaotic and dangerous. Proper knowledge of them and adhering to them is important. But not everyone driving on the roads follows the rules. Either ignorantly or knowingly they disobey and become a danger to all other travelers.

KNOW THE RULES

Rules and regulations for traveling on Life's Road are found in the Scriptures. Knowledge of them is important. And it's essential to follow them. Be advised that not everyone on the road follows the rules. As such, they pose a danger because of their ignorance or disobedience.

FOLLOW THE RULES

Conduct yourself in a manner worthy of a Christian. Keep alert for bad "drivers." Understand that some may be under the influence of dangerous ideas and habits. And especially be aware of those who may need help.

Take hold of instruction; do not let go.

Guard her, for she is your life.

Proverbs 4:13

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.

2 Peter 3:17

SAFE TO PROCEED?

It's best not to test the waters. Yes, it may look shallow enough to drive through, but is it? Once you proceed you will have to live with the outcome.

On Life's Road it's best not to enter the "waters" to find out if it is safe. Why risk endangering yourself? Choose to heed the warnings of conscience, warnings of others, warnings found in God's word.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"It's not that dangerous."

"It can't be that bad."

"What harm could there be?"

"Others may not be able to handle it, but I'm confident I can."

DON'T GO THERE!

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not proceed in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on.

Proverbs 4:14-15

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent...do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, for their feet run to evil and they hasten to shed blood.

Proverbs 1:10, 15-16

A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.

Proverbs 21:16

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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