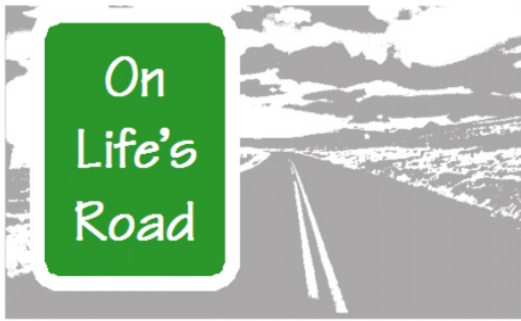


Road Signs to Help You Reach
Your Destination Safely

RON ADAMS

This booklet is dedicated to my lovely wife, Marie,
who for many years stood by my side as a preacher's wife
and continues to be the best life partner.

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STOP SIGNS

Two very true statements: (1) Stop signs don't stop cars. (2) God's laws don't stop sin.

Laws are not designed to stop lawlessness. They only specify what is forbidden. It's the driver who either obeys or disobeys stop signs. And it's the individual who obeys or disobeys God's commandments.

The driver must deal with the consequences of disobeying stop signs. And the individual must deal with the eternal consequences of disobeying God's "stop signs."

Ignoring a stop sign may not always result in a serious consequence, but disobeying God's commandments will certainly incur consequences. Sometimes in this life, but definitely in the judgment.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."

John 12:48

LESSONS

Obey stop signs to avoid serious problems.

Obey God's commandments to avoid eternal consequences.



DRIVE FRIENDLY

Highway signs along the roads in Texas read: “Drive Friendly.” (Friendly defined: favorably disposed; not antagonistic; amicable.)

One may obey the rules of the road out of obligation. (The law requires consideration of other drivers.) However, this sign encourages consideration based on relationship, not obligation. There is a lesson here in our dealing with other people, not only on the roads, but in everyday life.

One may consider others out of obligation (compelled: “have to”). However, the Scriptures teach that our consideration of others should be based on relationship. In living with others, and before God, it takes more than right actions. It takes the right attitude: “love” combined with “law.”

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

James sums it up well:

*If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law,
according to the Scripture, “You shall love
your neighbor as yourself,” you are
doing well.*

James 2:8

Live friendly!



FORKS IN THE ROAD

Which way to go? The decision one makes is based, not on which way is easier or well traveled, but where it will take you.

Likewise, we often come to forks on Life's Road where we must make a decision. The easy way beckons. The way well traveled is popular. The decision needs to be based on where will it take us. Some choices may only have a minimal or temporary impact on our journey. Other choices may have major and long-lasting consequences.

MAJOR 'FORKS' ON LIFE'S ROAD Choices with Eternal Consequences

God: Fear or ignore.

Jesus: Believe or disbelieve.

Disciple: Follow or go your own way.

Wisdom: Rely on heavenly or worldly.

Friends: Godly or worldly.

Lifestyle: Popular or righteous.

We make our own decisions. And we must live with where they take us.

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."

Matthew 7:13



A SOBERING THOUGHT

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17



A warning sign that motorists must heed. Ignoring it can lead to serious consequences.

DO NOT! WHY NOT?

When confronted with “do not” the usual response is “why not?” Good question. Yes, why not?

HERE’S THE ANSWER

Disobeying restrictions exposes one to serious problems that are frequently coupled with permanent consequences. Eve was told “Do not eat” of a particular tree in the Garden of Eden. She did, and the rest is history.

WHY NOT ACT HASTILY?

Do not go out hastily to argue your case; Otherwise, what will you do in the end, when your neighbor humiliates you.

Proverbs 25:8

WHY NOT ASSOCIATE?

Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways And find a snare for yourself.

Proverbs 22:24-25

WHY NOT ANSWER?

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him.

Proverbs 26:4

WHY NOT ADD?

Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

Proverbs 30:6



This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20

PROCEED SLOWLY

The often quoted saying, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," is from AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM by Alexander Pope in 1709. And there are several verses in the Book of Proverbs that point out the foolishness of being in a hurry without due regard for inevitable consequences.

He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.

Proverbs 14:29

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.

Proverbs 15:18

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Proverbs 16:32

A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

Proverbs 19:11

BE LIKE HIM

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Psalms 103:8



DO NOT WALK!

There are passages in the Bible that warn us about where not to walk. Why? Because of the dire consequences if one does.

ACCORDING TO THE FLESH

To walk after the flesh is to obey the carnal desires; to walk after the Spirit is to obey from the heart what the Spirit reveals in the Bible.

*“ ... who do not walk according to the flesh
but according to the Spirit.”*

Romans 8:4

BY SIGHT

Walk by sight and one only sees the here and now. Walk by faith and one sees what is beyond this life: life eternal.

... for we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

AS UNWISE

Not indulging in foolishness, but as one who relies on wisdom from above.

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men
but as wise.*

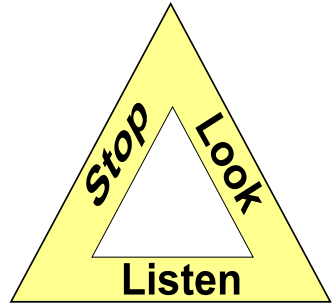
Ephesians 5:15

IN DARKNESS

Walk in darkness (figuratively): ignorance, sin, and wretchedness; being under the influence of the prince of darkness.

*Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you;
he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.*

John 12:35



GOOD ADVICE

This vintage sign was posted at unprotected railroad crossings in years past (and may still be found in some rural areas.).

STOP

Before proceeding determine if it is safe. Better to avoid problems than to have to clean up the mess afterwards. Will proceeding put me in harms way? Will I be overtaken in a fault?

The naive believes everything, But the prudent man considers his steps.

Proverbs 14:15

LOOK

Observe what is around you. Be aware of what's coming your way. Will proceeding put me in a spiritually inhospitable surrounding?

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life.

Proverbs 16:17

LISTEN

Do you hear any sounds of impending danger? Is your conscience warning you? Are others trying to tell you that it is not best to proceed?

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge.

Proverbs 22:17

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 19:20



YIELD

To submit to the decision of another through respect of authority or judgment.

YIELD TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Romans 13:7

YIELD TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17

YIELD UNTO GOD

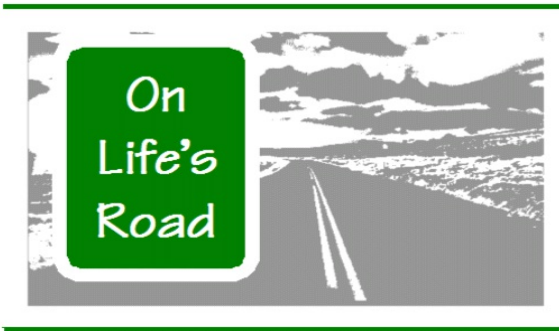
Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:13 KJV

YIELD NOT TO FALSE TEACHERS

But we did not yield in subjection to them [false brethren] for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

Galatians 2:5



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 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

We are created in God's image with a physical body, soul (natural life), and spirit (the inner man). They are interconnected and each one has an effect on the other parts. Physical pain has an effect on our mental state. Our mental state has an effect on our spiritual well being. Just as our spiritual well being has an effect on our mental state and our physical well being.

EXAMPLE

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. Sadly, in despair he hanged himself.



STOP, CAUTION, GO

STOP – do not go. To do so is dangerous.

CAUTION – proceed cautiously, prepare 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 alert, beware 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

Then Paul received the call: "Come over to Macedonia and help us."



EYE IN THE SKY

This sign informs the driver that his vehicle may be monitored from above. Maybe and maybe not. You just don't know. (Personally, I have seen very few occasions when it was happening. But, it's another good reminder to be a good driver.)

There is another "eye in the sky": Our heavenly Father who watches over us as we travel Life's Road. Nothing is hidden from His sight.

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Watching the evil and the good.*

Proverbs 15:3

NOT JUST A LAW ENFORCER

He's not just watching out for violators of His laws. Yes, He is concerned when His laws are broken. But He provides mercy and grace for violators who seek forgiveness.

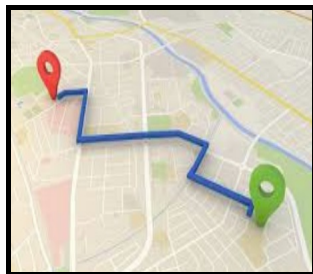
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

1 Peter 3:9

And the Lord watches over His children who are on Life's Road. He hears their prayers and answers their prayers.

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 5:14-15



ROAD MAP

Once we determine where we want to go, we need to know the way to our destination. This is where road maps: paper ones, electronic ones, or hand drawn ones, help us negotiate the maze of roads. We are forever indebted to those who compiled the information and made it available to us.

On Life's Road, God has given us a "map" to show the way to our desired destination. We are eternally indebted to Him for His guidance.

KNOW THE WAY

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

FOLLOW THE WAY

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalms 119:1-5

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."

Matthew 7:13

PERSEVERE

Obstacles will be encountered. Distractions will entice. Progress at times will be difficult. Press on!

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

Philippians 3:14

***Choose your life's path based on where it leads,
not on how easy and popular it is.***



DRIVER MANUAL

Rules and
Regulations

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 results.

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