

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Caution**

"Choose your friends with caution. Plan your future with purpose. Frame your life with faith." – Thomas S. Monson

"Curiosity is not a sin... But we should exercise caution with our curiosity... yes, indeed." – J.K. Rowling

"Caution is an important quality in a leader, but it has to be caution followed by decision. Caution followed by ambivalence can be a weakness." – Leon Panetta

"Trust but with caution because sometimes even your own teeth bite your own tongue." – unknown

"There's a time for daring and there's a time for caution, and a wise man understands which is called for." – Robin Williams

Caution has been defined as, "alertness and prudence in a hazardous situation; care; wariness: a warning against danger or evil; anything serving as a warning" (dictionary.com).

They are all around us: warning labels, notes of caution. We frequently see them accompanied by a warning of danger or poison. When driving and we approach a stop light when the amber color is lit, it means caution.

While we often face signs of caution, or warning labels, whether or not we heed them seems to be the problem. When some people see the yellow light at a traffic light, they think it means speed up. When the caution sign states danger, some do not take it seriously. For example, the caution regarding high voltage. Unfortunately, some have lost their lives because they didn't heed the warning.

In Scripture there are proverbial caution signs that we don't need to ignore. For example, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Cor. 15:33). Or, as the ASV states, "Evil companionships corrupt good morals." Many a child of God has ignored this caution and have aligned themselves with worldly friends who in turn, turned them away from God. Some have even chosen to marry a non-Christian thinking they could convert them, only to have been dragged from a relationship with God.

In another section of Scripture, yet another caution often ignored: "...Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Despite the warning, caution is throw to the wind and Christians try to straddle the proverbial fence. They have one foot in the world, and one in the church with Christ. It won't work!