

THE WARNING SIGN



Argentinean race driver Juan Manuel Fangio was only a lap through the 1950 Monaco Grand Prix. As he approached a dangerous bend for the second time, Fangio noticed that something was wrong. The faces of the spectators, which he usually saw as a whitish blur as he drove by, were all turned and looking at something ahead of him. "If they are not looking at me," Fangio thought, "they must be looking at something more interesting around the corner." So he braked hard and carefully as he rounded the bend. There he saw that his split-second assessment had been accurate. Ahead of him was a massive pileup that he would have smashed into had he not heeded the warning signs.

Sometimes warnings are subtle and take a trained eye to see, as in Fangio's case. Other times the warnings are so blatantly stated that it's hard to miss. Scripture utters many warnings, but one particular one continues to be a warning people either miss or ignore. Paul stated the warning in this way, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Time and time again this warning is not heeded. Paul even said, "Do not be deceived..." meaning that if we aren't careful, we will deceive ourselves into thinking this isn't true. And yet, so many of us seem to think we are the exception to the rule. We seem to think they won't influence us. We seem to think we are stronger than others. And like so many have found before us, our bad friends drag us into things that corrupt our morals.

The bottom line is this, either our friends are pulling us towards heaven, or they are pulling us towards hell. Even a "neutral" friend is dead weight on our desperate climb towards the Lord. Let's heed Paul's warning and choose our friends carefully. Let's not deceive ourselves into thinking we are the exception to the rule. The more righteous people we surround ourselves with, the greater chance we have of keeping our eyes on Jesus.

- Brett Petrillo, Denver, CO (*BulletinDigest.com*) -

TWO LITTLE WORDS

A doctor wrote a letter of thanks to a school teacher for having given him so much encouragement when he had been in her class thirty years before. He later received this reply: "I want you to know what your note meant to me. I am an old lady in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely, and seeming like the last leaf on the tree. You will be interested to know that I taught school for fifty years and yours is the first letter of appreciation I have ever received. It came on a cold blue morning and cheered my lonely old heart as nothing has cheered me in many years.

- *The Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

Be grateful for the doors of opportunity – and for friends who oil the hinges.

News & Notes

DEACON APPOINTED: Derek Thompson has been appointed as an additional deacon. Pray for him and his good wife, Pam as he assumes the responsibilities of this important position in the church.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes this Tuesday, July 18th at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

MECHANICAL PENCIL DRIVE: Through August 6th for school kids. Place in the box in the foyer. See Rico for details.

PANTRY: Oatmeal (round box).

REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS: Ruth Wright (Sharon Williams' sister), 1211 Mound St., Salem, OH 44460. Susie Haught (daughter-in-law of Skip & Sue), 220 Rexroad Drive, Weston, WV 26452. Margie Chisler (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Shirley Beagle, Joe Collins, Pat Allison, David McCoy, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad), Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **WEIR-TON MEDICAL:** Bill Robinson. **LIFELINE, WINTERSVILLE, OH:** Jim Smith. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

LOSING OUR SENSES

When unusual behavior is observed in another, someone may say, "They have lost their senses." It seems proper, based on certain observations, to say that many people today seem to have lost their senses! Some have lost their:

Sense of God. More and more a practical atheism is getting around (Titus 1:16). People admit they believe in God, but act as if He does not exist. Like God's people of old, they have "pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears" (Zechariah 7:11).

Sense of Sin. Sin isn't sin anymore! It has changed to a "mistake," "maladjustment," "sickness," etc. One writer pointed out that since Eisenhower (1953), no president has used the word "sin" in addressing our national problems.

Sense of Shame. In Jeremiah's day the ability to blush had been lost. "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush..." (Jeremiah 6:15).

Tragically, these losses lead to a greater loss yet: the loss of the soul. Reader, have you lost your senses? Obeying the truth is the sensible thing to do (1 Peter 1:22-23; 3:21).

- Bill Dillon, via *Gospel Gems*, Vol. 1 (*BulletinDigest.com*) -