

# Warnings to take Seriously!



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We are often warned of speed limits and other potential dangers, but we too often ignore them and do *not heed* the warning. Repeated warnings in the Bible, however, are a wake-up call to *heed* the *danger* and possible *deception* via *false doctrines*. Satan is constantly trying to deceive in some way. We are *warned* of the only way to escape the worst possible fate—if present-life issues are not dealt with in a scriptural way. *Warnings* are needed and we must *take* them seriously!

We are saved by *grace* through a believing *faith* in the atoning Blood of Christ, but this *faith* must be *real* and *acting* on what the sacrifice of Christ did for sinners. We will *follow* that plan when we *believe* that God actively does things for people today—just as He did in the Bible. It has to be that way because Malachi 3:6 “*I am the LORD, I change not.*”

Many *warnings* given many *times* compels us to *heed* them—Matthew 7:13 “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.*” A believer in *Christ* will be tested in *faith*—like being mistreated, persecuted, or left out of plans, but every injustice is placed before God in prayer to correct them.

Showing a right example by obeying God’s Word in our *own* life is shining the light of Truth. Matthew 5:16 “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*” Continuing to trust on the atoning Blood of Christ is how to escape the flames—Mark 9:48 “*Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched,*” Isaiah 66:24.

Jesus warned about having a religious appearance on the *outside*, but not having sincere faith in Him on the *inside*. Matthew 5:20 “*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*”

He warned that *anger* is like *murder*. Matthew 5:22 “*I say to you, That whoever is angry with his brother without a cause, shall be in danger of the judgment: and whoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell-fire.*” Only by truly repenting and truly forgiving everyone—will we escape that horrible fate!

Jesus said that immoral *thoughts* are like immoral *actions* Matthew 5:28. Drastic measures *must* be taken to discard things that *cause* sin—unsubscribing to a questionable publication; stopping online Internet service; or canceling a mobile phone service—whatever is tempting us to sin.

Many *warnings* about many *things*—Matthew 5:34 “*I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 37 Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*”

We are warned *not* to use *force* to stop *evil*—Matthew 5:39 “*I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*” If something is stolen

from us, we are *not* to involve the authorities; *not* attempt to retrieve it; but to *place* the matter before God in prayer.

Matthew 5:40 “*If any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*”

Concerning those who do not like us—Jesus said Matthew 5:44 “*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you—45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.*”

Prayers should be *short* and *secret*—Matthew 6:6 “*When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*”

Giving to the poor or giving donations is anonymous—Matthew 6:1 “*Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*” Matthew 6:2 “*Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*”

He explains how secretive to do it—3 “*But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*”

All these warnings of the Master, unfortunately, go unheeded by many who profess to believe—and is why Jesus warned Mark 7:6 “*Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*” It is all about what is in your heart—and God *knows* every heart!

We must forgive everyone—Matthew 6:14 “If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

We would immediately forgive people if we read, heed, and follow Colossians 3:12-13 “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

The strait road into Heaven allows no stored cash on earth. Matthew 6:20 “Amass wealth for yourselves in Heaven,” by giving it to charity on earth, 21 “For where your wealth is, there also will your heart be.”

Giving to the poor proves that love for God has replaced love for money. Matthew 6:24 “You cannot be the bondservants both of God and of gold.” We seek righteousness by believing Jesus—then Matthew 6:33 “All these things will be given to you as well.”

We should be repenting—not criticizing others. Matthew 7:5 “You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” It is spiritually deadly to be rebellious toward God’s Word about anything. God deals with the unforgiving servant Matthew 24:51 “And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” That is a warning to take very seriously!

The attitude that enters the kingdom is this—Matthew 7:12-14 “All things whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there are who go in by it. Because strait is the gate, and

narrow is the way, which leadeth to life, and few there are that find it.”

Warnings are repeated because deception is possible. Matthew 7:15-16 “Beware of the false teachers—men who come to you in sheep’s fleeces, but beneath that disguise they are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will easily recognize them.”

The issue is whether they trust God in faith for healing or trust the medical world in unbelief. Not many trust God in faith for financial needs but trust stored cash in banks. Producing fruit in this life is trusting God in faith for eternal life. Matthew 7:19. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Jesus said we are to be serious in obeying His commands and trusting Him. Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” The will of the Father is to have faith in what His Son accomplished on the cross. If a person does not believe in Him on earth, they will not receive eternal life in Heaven!

Satan deceives millions to think that a decent moral life and not harming anyone is all that God requires. Millions say they believe but have never really trusted God for anything. The number of souls destroyed by the lies of the devil is beyond counting. To those who claimed they had faith but lived like the world, Jesus said Matthew 7:23 “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

A true believer is truly enlightened by the Spirit—but the unbeliever is not given that light. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him.”

In these last days many will be 2 Timothy 3:4 “Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Eternal life is at stake—it means trusting God in faith on the merit of the atoning Blood of Jesus—for healing without pills; for provisions without pensions; for protection without guns; for justice without lawyers; and for everything else by faith in God.

Millions have turned away from trust on God and are following a path of trust on everything but God. Every day we learn more about how to trust God in faith for things. John 17:3 “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Millions, professing Christianity, think that God does not do things for people today, but a true believer will trust God every day for everything—willingly taking a risk on God’s faithfulness. The lies of the devil can be known by God revealing them to us. John 12:46 “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

Taking these warnings seriously has us making serious changes. We should see spiritual fruit and be adding to our spiritual knowledge by trusting God to open the Scriptures to us. Real faith and real trust on the Blood of Christ is the only way to escape the flames!

Hebrews 12:14 “Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness”—[meeting things right; forgiving everyone of everything]—“apart from which no one will see the Lord.” Those who heed the warnings, take them seriously, pass the tests, and keep their faith in Christ—enter Heaven!



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