

A Red Flag
Psalm 81:8–11

“Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me; There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.”

Don't allow overexposure to the world to lighten God's warning flag in your life.

Some years ago a railroad wreck took a dreadful toll of life in an eastern state.

A bus, loaded with young people returning from school, was stalled on a suburban track because of a broken axle.

The local train was soon due, so a flagman was sent back to warn the engineer in order to avert a rear-end collision.

Thinking all was well, the crowd laughed and chatted while the repairmen worked on in a frenzy.

Suddenly the whistle of the train was heard and on came the heavy train and crashed into the bus with horrible effect.

The engineer of the train saved his own life by jumping, and some days afterwards was hauled into court to account for his part in the calamity.

Then a curious discrepancy in testimony occurred.

He was asked, “Did you not see the flagman warning you to stop?”

He replied, "I saw him, but he waved a yellow flag.

I took it for granted all was well, and went on though, just slowing down."

The flagman was called, "What flag did you wave?"

"A red flag, but he went by me like a shot."

"Are you sure it was red?"

"Absolutely."

Both insisted on the correctness of their testimony, and it was demonstrated that neither was colorblind.

Finally the flagman was asked to produce the flag itself as evidence.

After some delay he was able to do so, and then the mystery was explained.

It had been red, but it had been exposed to the weather so long that all the red was bleached out, and it was but a dirty yellow!

Overexposure to the elements had left the warning sign damaged.

The warning went unnoticed because no one bothered to heed it and take proper care of it.

Even so, when we are overexposed to the elements of this world,

God's warning sign will go unnoticed in our lives.

God has set forth warnings in His Word.

He warns against the tricks of the devil,

Yet if you are not actively reading the Bible each day and listening to good preaching, you won't see God's warning flag.

Some place God Warns man;

Ps 50:7 ¶ Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God.

1Sa 12:15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Isa 28:14 ¶ Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Heb 12:24-25 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:"

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

2Th 2:3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

These are just a few of the warnings God gives to you and I.

He's standing at the edge of the railroad tracks, trying to keep you from turning down the wrong path, but unless you listen to Him and heed His warning, destruction is inevitable.

What warning flags are you missing today?

Is God trying to get your attention?

So often we can become wrapped up in our own schedule and busyness that we fail to look up and see God's warning flag. Take time to read God's Word.

Listen to His voice and ask

Him to show you any warning flags in your life.

Don't allow overexposure to this world to block your view of God's warning flags.