

DANGER SIGNALS

Rev. Arthur W. Osgood

The traveler on life's highway is confronted by many helpful injunctions to caution. All along the long smooth stretches of highway hangs this sign, "Beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." Many times the traveler remembers God while he is struggling across the hard places of life, but God seems to recede with the hills in the background. The thrill of power possesses the soul until all at once the power is missed. The inability to climb the approaching grade brings the realization that there has been a decrease in power.

Paul hung up this sign in Philippians 3:2: "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." There are big dogs and little dogs, the are barking dogs and biting dogs. There are dogs which greet you in a friendly manner, but are waiting for an opportunity to jump at your throat.

You may glance quickly at the sign, "Beware of evil workers," thinking that it is easy enough to detect them. Better not pass by so hastily. Stop and take in that warning well. There are evil workers who give little heed to their evil. They spread their deeds abroad so that all may see; but there are others who so cleverly disguise their evil that one will carelessly give them the right hand of fellowship unless he is on guard.

Near this sign hangs another, "Beware of false prophets." Not every person who uses ecclesiastical language and dresses in a quietly becoming manner, not everyone who rocks the steeple with his loud praying, not everyone whose eyes fill with tears at the mention of sin, is a prophet of the Lord. There are those who will unhesitatingly follow the loud prayer to destruction. We are not heard for our loud praying. I had rather rock the world with my life than to rock the steeple with my voice. In like manner there are many false prophets who pray and act quietly. So many people trust in the externalities of religion that they are easily deceived by any beautiful religious expression. "Beware of false prophets."

"Beware of covetousness." This has sidetracked many a good man. Anyone must beware of those things which steal the joy of the Lord from the heart. One of those things is covetousness.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." How easy it is to follow theories! We would like to try to reason everything and it is easy to substitute philosophy and traditions of men to the gradual exclusion of Christian rudiments.

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." Beware of outward righteousness only. External appearances are important, but their value is only in proportion to the amount that they express an inward conformity to the will of God. The issues of life proceed from a heart made pure by the touch of Divinity.

"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." This danger signal has attached to it the best rule for avoiding all of the dangers that confront the Christian life. It is the one safe rule to fol-

low. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." This rule was penned by one who had denied his Lord after following afar off and failing to immediately identify himself with the reproach of Christ. It is not only necessary to grow in grace, but it is also necessary to grow in knowledge, and that knowledge must be the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Paul said, "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." We must be willing to sell all in order to obtain the gem of great price. Having been planted in Him, we must go on unto perfection. We must grow or die. If we continue to grow we will see the danger signals and avoid the dangers.

TRUE EVANGELISM

Rev. J. M. Hames

I was asked by one of our leading men and a delegate to the General Conference what I considered would be "the best methods to pursue in achieving aggressive victories in a forward move in evangelism during the next quadrennium." After spending nearly thirty years in the evangelistic work, I have taken note of some things which I hope will be helpful to our beloved Zion.

First of all, we need a vision. We need to lift up our eyes (spiritual eyes) to the ripened fields. Without a vision, there can be no progress. Before that skyscraper went up, towering into the clouds, someone had a vision, and saw in their minds everything from the foundation to the top story. In like manner we must have a vision, and a pioneer spirit in evangelism.

Second: We must plan our work. Can you picture the skyscraper going up without a plan, or blueprint? Never! I would suggest that each Annual Conference elect one of their best men as Conference evangelist; a man with gifts, a man of prayer, a man that can and will endure hardships. Then put a sufficient salary behind him so that he can go up to new fields and stay there until something happens. During the seven years I was Conference evangelist I can point to six churches as a result of pioneer work. Some of these churches are among our very best in the South Carolina Conference. In the year of 1923 we pitched a tent in the big city of Atlanta, Georgia. We sweated and wept and drove stakes, but out of that tent meeting came the Atlanta church. They have just now completed their beautiful stone church, located near Grant's Park, one of the best churches in the two Georgia Conferences. Does Evangelism pay?

Third: Let every one from our Connectional men down, talk evangelism until our people are fired and catch the vision, then put on a drive for new churches. Don't be afraid to venture. If the Lord delights in us as a Church we are well able to go up and possess the land.

When our country declared war on the enemy we as a nation talked war and appealed to the people's patriotism until the nation was fired. Now, nothing can stop us until victory is achieved. Let's talk of God, victory, evangelism, new fields, new churches until our vision is fired and we awake to make our dreams come true.—Sel.

PAINTED WOMEN

"Though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair." Thus saith the Lord. And yet women follow the fashions of this wicked, Christ-rejecting world and paint their faces in a vain attempt to make themselves attractive. What an abomination in the sight of God!

Cannibals and savages use paint but, when they become Christians they give it up. Can Spirit-filled women adopt heathen customs?

I have yet to meet a Christian man to whom a painted woman makes an appeal. To most men she is hideous and repulsive. What man wants to kiss painted lips? Women think they can improve the lovely, natural lips and finger nails God has given them. As if man could improve on God's work!

A few years ago only the harlots painted. That was how men recognized them. Do Christian women want to look like harlots? The Bible says of Jezebel that "she painted her face," but it calls her "that cursed woman," and dogs ate her flesh (2 Kings 9:30-37).

Every time I see a lovely face spoiled by paint, something within me revolts and my heart is pained. How must God feel!

"Though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair (Jer. 4:30). How true!—Daniel Strong in The Peoples Magazine.

STIR ME

Stir me, Oh! stir me, Lord—I care not how,

But stir my heart in passion for the world;
Stir me to give, to go, but most to pray,

Stir, till the Blood-red banner be unfurled
O'er lands that still in heathen darkness lie,
O'er deserts where no Cross is lifted high.

Stir me, Oh! stir me, Lord, till all my heart
Is filled with strong compassion for these
souls,

Till Thy compelling "must" drives me to pray,
Till Thy constraining Love reach to the
poles

Far North and South, in burning deep desire,
Till East and West are caught in Love's great
fire.

Stir me, Oh! stir me, Lord, till prayer is pain,
Till prayer is joy—till prayer turns unto
praise;

Stir me till heart and will and mind, yea, all
Is wholly Thine to use through all the days;
Stir, till I learn to pray "exceedingly,"
Stir, till I learn to wait expectantly.

Stir me, Oh! stir me, Lord! Thy heart was
stirred

By love's intensest fire, till Thou did'st give
Thine only Son, Thy best beloved One.

E'en to the dreadful Cross, that I might
live;

Stir me to give myself so back to Thee,
That Thou can'st give Thyself again thro' me.
—The People's Magazine

PASTORAL CARE

We should know every person who belongs to our charge; for how can we take heed to the flock of God if we do not know every person that belongs to our charge? Does not a careful shepherd look after every individual sheep, and a good physician attend every particular patient? Why, then, should not the shepherds and the physicians of the church take heed to every member of their charges?
—Richard Baxter.