

## ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION

-Ryan Parsons-

We have recently been hearing the phrase “an abundance of caution” used repeatedly. With it has been a debate about freedom and an outrage over practice. Many have said the position lacks truth and wisdom. However, that is not the “abundance of caution” I want to talk about today.

Would you believe me if I told you the Bible talks about the very same thing? Caution is actually recommended for God’s followers. Not for viruses or how to handle political matters, but for sin. The word “cautious,” used in Proverbs 14:16 in the ESV translation, means “afraid” or “fearful” in the Hebrew.

Proverbs 14:16

One who is wise is **cautious** and turns away from evil,  
but a fool is reckless and careless.

This word comes from the same root word used in verses 26-27 which talk about the fear of the Lord.

26

In the **fear** of the Lord one has strong confidence,  
and his children will have a refuge.

27

The **fear** of the Lord is a fountain of life,  
that one may turn away from the snares of death.

Our world sells products called “Sin ain’t a big deal!” and “Never be afraid of anything!” Caution is viewed as weakness. Seeking righteousness is automatically assumed to be “self-righteousness,” and strong confidence equates to a toxic ego. Therefore, this wisdom is dismissed by our dysfunctional culture.

However, because we know the Word of God, we can see the big picture. Sin and evil are what caused things to become broken. Likewise, they are what stand in the way of our relationship with God and a life in him that is thriving and full. Jesus gave his life so that we could be redeemed from our sins. Still, the tempter desires for us to be drowned by the weight of sin and thrust off course by a focus upon unrighteousness.

An abundance of caution and a healthy fear are what help us avoid the sin that hinders our journey with God. This wisdom leads us away from choosing brokenness and into intimacy with our Creator. The Proverbs teach us that this attitude protects, gives confidence, and empowers us to avoid the disabling predicament of sin.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

How is your race going?

Keep Studying,  
Ryan