

ROAD RUNNER AND THE COYOTE

Growing up (and still today), the *Road Runner* cartoons were among my favorites. Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner are a duo of characters from the *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* series of cartoons. Coyote repeatedly attempts to catch and subsequently eat the Road Runner, a fast-running ground bird, but he is never successful.

Instead of his animal instincts, Coyote uses absurdly complex contraptions to pursue his prey, which comically backfire, with Coyote often getting injured.



Maybe Wile E. Coyote and all the ACME products he bought are the reason we have so many warning labels on products today. Warning labels point to dangers in life. Most of them make sense, but some of them are just downright ridiculous and make you wonder why a company had to put that warning label on their product in the first place.

I found a couple of websites devoted to nothing but inane warning labels. Here are a few:

- *Do not put in mouth.* On a box of bottle rockets.
- *Not dishwasher safe.* On a remote control for TV.
- *Do not attempt to stop the blade with your hand.* In the manual for a Swedish chainsaw.
- *Warning: May contain nuts.* On a package of peanuts.
- *Caution: the contents of this bottle should not be fed to fish.* On a bottle of shampoo for dogs.
- *Do not use in shower.* On a hair dryer.
- *Warning: May contain small parts.* On a Frisbee.
- *Not suitable for children aged 36 months or less.* On a birthday card for a 1-year-old.
- *For use by trained personnel only.* On a can of air freshener.
- *Fragile. Do not drop.* Posted on a Boeing 757.
- *Caution: Remove infant before folding for storage.* On a portable stroller.
- *May be harmful if swallowed.* On a shipment of hammers.

Are we all related to Wile E. Coyote? Are we all dumber than a bowl of pudding? Apparently, the people who write warning labels think so.

(more)

Let's face it. Life can be dangerous. Sometimes, it can be like nothing more than an ongoing obstacle course. Or a minefield. You never know when something's going to blow up in your face or what the next challenge is going to be. It could be the reason the game show *Survivor* is so popular.

Maybe that's why this verse in the Bible could be the warning label for the Christian life. Not a funny one but a serious one:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

