

# THOUGHTS

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**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**  
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2017

Thoughts  
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## TWT 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

Put the date on your calendar for next year; The Word Today will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018! We hope that you will be able to join us that day for an inspiring celebration of God's goodness and future plans for TWT! We will have a catered meal following the late, 10:30 a.m., service - please join us!

## PURLOINED PURSE

Just 48 hours before Connie and I were to travel to Winnipeg for the wedding of her nephew her purse was stolen from the clothing boutique where she has been working. It seems it was teamwork theft; one distracted Connie at the back of the shop near the fitting room while the other looked behind the sales counter and found her purse.

Records from the fraud department of our credit card show that within minutes of their departure from the store they were at the local Walmart charging many transactions loading gift cards. They then drove to the next closest Walmart and repeated the process, in total charging \$6,000 to our credit card. Since Connie's entire purse was stolen she also lost her driver's license, a pair of prescription sun glasses, three other credit cards, car keys to all our vehicles and some cash, as well as incidentals.

We kicked into high gear and within the 48-hour period had halted all accounts effected, took the car using a remote key fob to be reprogrammed to protect it from a potential clandestine visit to our house by the robbers (Be forewarned, replacing a remote key and reprogramming a car cost right at \$500), put new door locks and deadbolts on our home, and made all the pertinent contacts. That one moment of thievery cost us more than \$1,000.

*It will cost the thieves much, much more.* These were likely desperate and not so intelligent people; they went to Walmart, and who besides Walmart has more video cameras? Someone said a casino; yes, likely. I suspect that they were caught on camera, and we supplied the policeman investigating with a detailed listing from our bank account of every fraudulent transaction down to the second. I think Walmart will even have video of their "getaway vehicle". They likely will be paying a pretty price for their covetousness and sticky fingers! If they have a rap sheet they hopefully will serve some time. *Initially it was hard to pray for such people.* When they entered the store Connie thought, "These do not look like customers," but tried to suppress any negative thoughts. I reminded her to trust her instincts, not suppress them. As Christians we must be godly, but Jesus said, "I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16)."



*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .  
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

August

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Connie was consciously trying to be Christ-like while they robbed her. Ironically I had just preached the day before about how the world, our sinful flesh and Satan are our enemies and will attack us.

It is a sinful human impulse to hate them, to wish evil upon them, and our own flesh comes up with plenty of scenarios. But, as we settled down and got to the business of "righting the ship" we had time to talk. We agreed that we fear for those women. They are walking in darkness, not the Light. They will not only meet an earthly judge, I presume, but a Heavenly one. We are agreed that we would rather suffer loss and frustration than be on the wrong side of God's will. We *are* praying for their repentance and salvation.

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To add a bit of irony to this scenario, it unfolded on my 55<sup>th</sup> birthday! The morning was idyllic and I was grateful for the peaceful recollection of God's goodness to me over my life. Did that goodness end at 5:30 when Connie reported the theft? No, of course not! As each day passes I see the lesson in the event. We want perfect days, perfect lives, everything to "go our way". Reality is not so rose colored, and any given day may bring hardship or a test of faith. So be it; we are Christians and we should be prepared for it!

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My Jewish friend in Israel upon hearing of the loss reminded me properly of the words of Job, "God gave, and God took away." I finished the sentence for him, "... blessed be the name of the Lord. (see Job 1:21b)." Further, after Job had lost not only his business, his children and his health he said, "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble (2:10b)?" *Now, that's a verse that should get us thinking!* If God wants the best for us globally within his plan for us, if He allows something to befall us it is going to have a larger purpose to change us. Who are we to suggest we know better?

Apply that thought process to all calamities you face.

#### **IMPORTANT CORRECTION**

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In my July THOUGHTS I commented about a truism, I taught our boys, which I believe may have been inadvertently spell check corrected to say, "... the Word does not give a damn about you." *Nothing could be further from the truth; I intended that "Word" read "World", in that sinful culture does not care whether you are godly or make it to Heaven.* It will not support you, but will at times oppose you. The Word, as in God's Word, cares deeply about these things and should be treasured by our hearts and minds. Thank you to my eagle-eyed anonymous congregational editor who wrote next to the gaffe, "Kinda important". Indeed, it is critically important!

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder