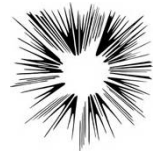




Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



My Wallet and Faulty Thinking

Written by Art Henkel

I was riding public transit and my destination was the Vancouver airport where I was scheduled to catch a flight to Dallas Texas. As I got off the city bus and was heading to the Sky Train station for the last leg of my airport journey, I thought of double checking to make sure that my passport was in my computer bag.

I stood off to the side of the entrance to the Sky Train station and began my search. Within seconds it was confirmed. My passport was exactly where I had placed it. All was well, or was it? I had located my passport but my wallet was nowhere to be found. My wallet which had my picture ID, credit cards, and a few hundred dollars cash, was missing.

What am I going to do? Where could it be? Within seconds three scenarios began to play through my mind. One, I had left my wallet at home. No, that couldn't be. I was sure I had placed it in my computer bag with my passport. Two, it must have fallen out of my bag when I was on the bus. No, it was in my bag and it couldn't have just fallen out. Three, that very friendly woman who sat beside me on the bus must have stolen it. Yah, that's it!

I had just taken my seat on the bus when a middle aged woman sat down beside me. She was very engaging and began to share how she had travelled from out of town to visit two of her children. She asked me if I could help her with some directions. For several minutes we sat talking on the bus, trading stories about our families. Every once in a while I would turn to look ahead for her upcoming bus stop. That's when she must have slipped my wallet out of my computer bag. She totally scammed me.

I phoned my wife Donna-Mae to tell her what had happened. We made arrangements to meet at the airport. I would check into my flight and she'd drive to the terminal to give me some additional cash and ID. By the time Donna-Mae arrived I had filled out a police report and had the whole 'stolen wallet' affair figured out. So I thought.

When Donna-Mae arrived and we stood in the middle of the terminal and I once again explained what must have happened. As I was telling my story I couldn't help but notice she had a bothered look on her face. My eyes caught her pulling something out of her bag. It was brown, leather and looked very much like my wallet. "I found this on our kitchen table just as I was leaving the house," she said shaking her head and passing me my stolen wallet. "Just go and catch your flight, brother."

I couldn't believe it. Here, with the help of my acute mind, I had developed an entirely false scenario and at the same time villainized an innocent woman who just wanted help with directions. What's wrong with me? Have I lost my marbles?

The reason I've shared this proud moment in my life is to illustrate the problem of faulty thinking. It's the reason that so many people in our world, including religious folk, have a misunderstanding of who God is.

Left to our own religious thinking, mankind has come up with an array of false descriptions and scenarios of God and His interaction with mankind. Some view God as an angry deity, one who has to constantly be appeased by sacrificial effort. Others view God as aloof and distant, as if He's bothered when we attempt to connect with Him. Due to self thinking, humanistic evaluations, and religious ponderings the list of faulty thinking about God just goes on and on.

Thankfully Jesus came on the scene to bring clarity. If you want a true picture of who God is, His nature and how He desires to relate with you, just look to Jesus. He said it Himself, "...Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father..." (John 14:9). "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30). "...No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). Only in Jesus can we actually experience the truth of God.