

Bermudian Church of the Brethren
WEDNESDAY's WORD (on Friday)

– a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
February 23 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #729

The Season of Lent 2018 – Life Among The Thorns

Fraud Alert!

A few weeks back I got a strange phone call.

“Hello, this is Mrs. Johnson from the fraud department of your bank. We were just calling to verify that you spent \$1200 yesterday on electronic supplies in Kuwait.”

My choked out ... panic rising answer was, **“Ahhhh, No!”**

What followed was a description of what I needed to do. My debit card was immediately cancelled. I needed to wait a few days to see if the transaction cleared my account. It did. Then I needed to go to my local branch and fill out fraud paperwork. In about 10 days, they said, the money should be returned to my account. It was actually returned to the account in 7 days.

I must say I was very thankful that someone was keeping an eye out. Good job! And I'm appreciative of the clear and efficient procedures they had in place. Someone had to “eat” that \$1200 I suppose ... and I'm thankful they didn't just let that fall on me!

But the event left me feeling a bit vulnerable. And now I suspect that I'm on some watch list for purchasing bomb making electronics for Islamic terrorists in Kuwait!!!! Yikes! I can see it all now. The next time I fly my name will set off all kind of triggers and security alarms and I will be taken into a little room and made to strip down to my underwear! With a full cavity search in order! In the meanwhile another security worker, with greasy fingers from his fried chicken lunch, will be going through my clean laundry in my luggage item by item! Cold sweat here!!!!

The truth is that we live in a world where alertness is in order. As consumers of books, magazines, TV, radio, movies, and digital media ... we must be alert to what we are taking in. Untruth and false doctrine can be sneaky and subtle. It was a common theme for the writers of our Scriptures. We must heed their warnings! The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him....” 1 Peter 5:8, 9 GNT

In this day of political division and so many topics that call forth much heated debate ... we must be careful that from our mouths as we speak, and from our keyboards as we type, come only thoughts guided by Scripture and our Lord's Holy Spirit. The latest “line” from our favorite political party, from the media, from the celebrity superstar or sports hero ... the latest Facebook

'meme' or Twitter post ... may be pure fraud as it relates to God's truth and God's way. Be careful!

When they placed the crown of thorns on our Lord's head, those thorns that so painfully punctured His scalp symbolized a fallen world of sin. Yes, we still live among the thorns, but we must be careful not to be so "thorny" in our walk of faith among others! Strive to be an authentic, fruitful follower of Jesus! Don't be a fraud!

"Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side, To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of Love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died; The humble King **they named a fraud**, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God. O wash me in His precious blood. My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God."

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Be careful out there!
Pastor Larry <><