

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Should I Keep It?

I would imagine that most of us at some point in time have been faced with the dilemma of what to do with something that we may have stumbled across, but that does not actually belong to us. You may have “found” a sum of money on the sidewalk; or received too much money in change at a store or restaurant; or some other similar situation. The question that most of us might think – at least for a fraction of a second – is *should I keep it?*

I think that most everyone (hopefully everyone) who is reading this would come to the right decision and do what is right in the situation. Whether it is correcting the cashier that gave you too much change; or making every attempt to find the owner of the lost money; or whatever other similar situation might come up. Ill-gotten gain – no matter how innocent – is never worth making the wrong decision.

The other day, I stopped at a Walmart to buy gas. The place was full, so I pulled in behind a guy in a Jeep. He finished his fill and drove off. I pulled in, got out, was fixing to insert my credit card when I looked at the screen and it read, “\$15.00 Deposited – Begin Pumping.” I paused for a second, trying to discern what I was seeing. For a fraction of a second, I allowed Satan to enter my heart and ponder, “*should I keep it?*”. Then, just as quickly, I said, “*get thee behind me, Satan!*”.

I realized that someone obviously had made a mistake. I decided I would pump the \$15.00, then use my credit card to finish my fill and then settle up with the attendant. So, I proceeded to do just that. As I began pumping the gas on my own credit card, a young girl came toward me and said, “*Excuse me, Sir.*” Instantly, I knew what she wanted and I showed her the receipt I had received for the \$15.00 and said, “*I believe this must be yours.*” She said, “*I told the attendant the wrong pump number.*” I told her that I wasn’t trying to take her gas and that I would settle with the attendant when I finished my fill. She said, “*Bless you, Sir:*” and walked away. I did as I told her I would do and drove away.

There was no way I was going to keep the “free gas!” Yet, for that slight moment, the thought entered my mind. Just as most of you - being honest with yourself - would admit the same thing. Does that mean that you

and I are bad people for thinking that. No! It simply means that we are human and Satan will tempt us in any way that he can. Being tempted is not wrong. It's how we react to the temptation that could lead us to sin!

After His baptism, Jesus was tempted of the Devil three times. On each occasion, Jesus refused to succumb to the Devil's tempting and used scripture to refute him. Finally, the Devil gave up and left Jesus. Seems like a pretty good strategy to me – using scripture to resist temptation.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *"most of your minutes"* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland