

Don't Leave Home Without It

Your Word Is A Lamp to Guide My Feet and A Light for My Path (Psalm 119: 105)

Remember never to leave home with out it! When we were children, and experiencing old Canadian-style winters, our parents would remind us never to leave home without wearing our hats and mitts. Then once we learned how to drive, we needed to remember not to leave home without a purse or wallet or sunglasses when getting into the car. Then with smartphones and cellphones we had to remember not to leave the house without them. I often remember to take the cell phone when I leave but I don't always think to turn it on so Nadine can call me. Several times the waitress at my local coffee shop would come and say, "your wife called; will you turn on your phone!" Once we got our dog Daisy, we had to start to remember to have a certain bag in our hands before we left the house to take her for a walk. Now with COVID-19 we have one more thing to remember never to leave home without: a FACE MASK.

It is certainly a new thing for all of us to have to remember to grab our face mask as we leave the house. I forgot to do so two weeks ago when I stopped to get gas in the car. Instead of paying at the pumps I went inside and immediately realized I had forgotten my mask at home. I apologized to the clerk and pulled my shirt up to cover my mouth while I paid. Taking a mask with us whenever we go out is certainly a new reality for us.

When you consider all the items, we have had to remember to take with us before leaving our house they fall into the following categories:

- Mitts, Hats, Masks: PROTECTION
- Wallet, Purse: SECURITY AND NEED
- Cell Phone: ACCESSIBLILTY / CONTACT
- Certain dog bag: CLEAN UP MESSSES

Something that Scripture tells us we should never leave home without is our FAITH IN GOD and trust in His Word. Psalm 119: 105 – 112 points out several ways that faith in God's word helps us whenever we leave the safety and security of our homes:

- *God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path (vs 105)*
- *God's word promises to restore us even after suffering (vs 107)*

- *God's commandments will keep us safe from the trap the wicked have set for us (vs 110)*
- *God's laws will bring delight to our hearts (vs 111)*
- *God's decrees will keep us hoping and persevering (vs 112).*

As the Psalmist points out in these verses, going out into the world can cause us to experience things like:

- CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY
- SUFFERING
- EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION
- RISKS
- WICKEDNESS AND EVIL
- SIN

With the possibility of experiencing these things whenever we leave our house, it is important to have with us things to protect us, to make us feel safe and secure, and to provide us with accessibility just like our masks, wallet, and cell phones do. We are beginning to see how important it is for us to also remember to take our FAITH and TRUST in God and His Word with us wherever we leave our homes. Walking into this world with God's Word provides us with the clarity, the protection, and the assurances we need to:

- WALK IN FAITH AS OPPOSED TO FEAR,
- TRUST AS OPPOSED TO WORRY,
- STAND IN THE LIGHT AS OPPOSED TO THE DARKNESS,
- FEEL AT PEACE AS OPPOSED TO FEELING OPPRESSED AND BEING OVERWHELMED.

As we grab our mitts, purses, wallets, cell phones and masks to head out the door, pause for a moment and remind yourself to carry your FAITH in God and TRUST IN HIS WORD with you as well. It is so important that we never leave home without it. Equally important is that we never forget to experience it and have it in our homes as well.

Whenever I leave the house now, I have to remember to take my mask as well. After Sunday night and the Leafs exiting the play-offs, I have to remember another mask to take with me as well – a paper bag to fit over my head! As I have mentioned before, my next-door neighbour is a Montreal Canadiens fan

and the one across from me is a Chicago Black Hawks fan. Their teams are still in the playoffs and mine is not. One more mask for me to have to remember to take with me!

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean