

Elder Bobby Willis



Beware of Thieves!

There was a time when we could leave our home unlocked for the weekend when we went off to church meetings. We would come back late Sunday afternoon and nothing would be touched. If the doors were locked at all, it was with an old church key.

I talked a few minutes with one of our neighbors this morning, only to learn they had been broken into about two weeks ago. The thief went through an open side gate and broke in the back, stealing a large amount of yard equipment and also jewelry, medicine, and small appliances. The thief did not make a lot of noise as it was in the middle of the day. He even spoke with two of the neighbors who live next door. Friendly type of fellow they said, middle aged, who said he was there to do some work. He lied as well as stole!

Most of us understand that our true treasures are not on this earth, but rather in heaven **“where thieves do not break through nor steal:...”** However, while we remain on this old sinful earth, there is all kind of evil around us, taking on the appearance of good while underneath they are ravaging wolves.

Just how are we to be if we are endeavoring to honor our Lord? In Luke 8:15 we find the lesson of the seed that fell on good ground. The Lord said they are those **“which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience”**. Deacons are to be of **“honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom”**, which (by the way) is a good characteristic for all of us. Paul tells us to **“Provide things honest in the sight of all men”** (Romans 12:17 - which is repeated in II Corinthians 8:21) and to **“...walk honestly, as in the day;...”** (Romans 13:13).

The new testament is full of quotations extolling us to walk honestly in all things we set our hands to do. People we know as brothers and sisters in Christ who are trying to live godly lives are honest. But there is another element in the world who are not. As we are to guard against thieves stealing our earthly possessions, we must also guard against

those who would steal our joys. Satan is going about seeking whom he may devour and a lot of his cronies are doing the same. They will steal your joys by urging old and young alike to be unfaithful to the Lord, to rob God of His just praise and glory, and to deceive God's children by stealing their self esteem, their honest character, or their godly walk.

Be ever mindful of thieves. They may not be after your microwave or anything that obvious. But underneath their seemingly sheep like clothing, lies a thief who will lie and steal your dignity, your respect and your good name.

The Lord warned the church at Sardis of the following, **“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”** The judgment of the Lord is just as true and swift as His mercy and grace. Let the Lord find us seeking to serve Him as a true watchman and not one who has gone asleep on the job of honoring and praising His name. ***“Think About It!”***