

# WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

If someone were to pick up your purse or wallet and look through it, what would they learn about you?

What is in **your** wallet? A driver's licence? Cash? Are there bank cards or credit cards? Do you keep your SIN card or health cards in there? Does your wallet contain a Tim's Card, gym card, AirMiles card, or grocery store cards? Are there any photos of loved ones in your wallet? What other things are found in your purse or wallet?

The contents of my wallet are pretty standard. My driver's license testifies to my identity. It gives my name, age, gender, height, weight, and eye color. It testifies that I have a residence in BC. It also declares that I possess the physical and mental ability to operate a motor vehicle. My BC medical and private extended medical cards testify that I am a resident of the province, authorized to receive medical and dental treatment. My SIN card testifies that I am authorized to work, establish a bank account, apply for government benefits and apply for credit. My bank card testifies I have a chequing and/or savings account. Credit cards declare I am creditworthy. My gym card declares I take my health seriously and work out to promote my health. My Tim's card testifies why I have to go to the gym! My Save-on More, Safeway and Costco cards testify to my delight in shopping for good food and other products that will make my life more enjoyable. Pictures of loved ones in my wallet reveal the identity of those closest to me. I have those pictures in my wallet as a reminder for me and a way of sharing the identity of my loved ones with others.

I am sure that the wallets and purses of most people reading this article contain many of the items I have listed above. The contents of my wallet say some really important things about me. They testify that I am no different than most all my fellow Canadians. I want to be a law abiding citizen and have all of the right identification, so that I can take advantage of all I am entitled to by the law of the land. My wallet testifies that money and finances are important to me. The cards in my wallet give me instant access to cash or credit for purchases. My wallet testifies that I belong to a family: I am loved and I love others.

Recently I conducted a memorial service for woman who had reached a good age. Her daughters testified that she had a strong attachment to the Lord and His church. She was born and raised in the Prairies and was a pillar of faith in a rural Lutheran congregation. During her twilight years, her attachment to a particular congregation waned. I did not know this woman, yet I prayed to God for some information about her that would help me to conduct her service in a way which gave all those assembled a unique insight into her life and give God the glory. God answered my prayer. One of her daughters had gone through her deceased mother's purse. She found most all the normal things in her purse. She found cards which established identity and entitlement. However, she also found something truly unique that she shared with me. It was a carefully laminated business card. On one side of the card was the name, address and telephone number of a vendor. The name and address had been stamped on the card with an ink stamp. It looked as though the card may have gotten wet; the ink had run and the letters were so blurred you could not read them, yet the card was precious to this woman, as she had obviously laminated the dried card. Its precious attachment for this woman was revealed by the other side of the card, upon which these words were printed:

'The Light of God surrounds me,  
The Love of God enfolds me

The Power of God protects me,  
The Presence of God watches over me,  
Wherever I am, God Is.'

With this card, she told her daughter and all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, siblings, all her friends, all other relatives, me, and now you, who she was, is, and always will be. By this card, this woman declared that she was a child of God. She declared that God had walked with her through this life and also ushered her into eternity when she breathed her last. She believed this promise that Jesus made: **"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** (John 14:1-3). This was her story. This is what she trusted all the days of her life among us. What a testimony! What a witness! What this woman kept in her wallet really moved me.

If your wallet is like mine, it contains a lot of evidence on what we place our faith and trust in and what we desire. Our wallets testify that we want a place we can call home. We want health, wealth and the independence that vehicles and money can provide. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with what's in my wallet. Every reasonable and prudent person should have all these things in his or her wallet or purse. There is nothing wrong with having a nice place to live, good health and good food. These are all gifts from God, for our good. The problem is what was missing from my wallet: nothing in my wallet bears testimony to the most important aspect of my life, namely, my faith. There is nothing to testify to my identity and home that transcends my identity as a Canadian living at an address in Kelowna, British Columbia with the ability to make and spend money. There is nothing in my wallet that says that I: am a child of God; belong to a royal priesthood made up of all believers; live with God and that God lives with me; believe that one day, my address will be in eternity and I won't need all the stuff in my wallet when I get there.

Inspired by the faith of this woman, I designed a business card-sized faith identity card for my wallet. On the one side my card quotes this scripture passage: **"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."** (John 14:23). On the other side, the card declares:

By His Passion, Jesus redeemed me.  
By His love, He daily transforms me.  
By His wisdom, the Spirit guides me.  
By His power and might, God protects me.  
God is with me today, tomorrow, and for eternity.

If you want one of my cards to put in your wallet, drop by the church some Sunday morning and pick one up. Join us for worship at 10:30AM. Or, send your request for a card by mail to the address below, or email us at [info@gracelutherankelowna.com](mailto:info@gracelutherankelowna.com) and I will sent you a card at no charge, no strings attached. You will not be put on a mailing list.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

In Christ,

Pastor Ed Skutshek