



Rev. Rosemary Doran

## *Rosemary's Reflections*

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Not too long ago, my husband and I took our car in for its annual spring washing. Time was when washing the car meant finding a bucket of soapy water, some old cloths and a lot of elbow grease and after an hour or two there was the finished product – shiny, clean and ready to go. Nowadays of course, we go through the automatic car wash – so easy – nothing to do but sit back and enjoy the process. Except for me.

Going through a car wash has become a nerve-racking experience. I might just be getting old? There's trying to get your code number right. There's knowing what gear to be in – or not. There's all those lights flashing commands at you – Back up – Go forward – Don't move! And then there's the help-me-get-out-of-here feeling because you can't see a thing as your car is rocked by torrents of water and lathered and waxed within an inch of its life. And then hallelujah! – comes salvation – the Exit sign! – and you're warm-air blown through the rest of the tunnel out into the sunshine. You decide never to do this again – till the next time!

This experience reminded me of two important things in my life as a Christian. One is to follow the instructions. This is what God's Word is for. In 2 Timothy 16, we read that all Scripture “is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.” So, from the Ten Commandments to the Sermon on the Mount to the witness of Peter, Paul, John and others, we get what we need to move confidently through life – if we pay attention that is!

We may feel overwhelmed by all the “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” that we are to observe. If so, Jesus sums it all up for us in two short phrases – “Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself,” which gives us a lot of scope when you think of how much we generally love ourselves.

The second thing that came to me from the car wash experience was that it illustrated the principle of trust. As long as I followed the instructions, it didn't matter if I couldn't see ahead clearly. The machinery kept the car on the right track into, through and out of the process.

Surely this is what faith in God is about. God leads us where we need to go and when we trust in God we are guided safely through whatever trials and tribulations may confuse and distress us. But trusting God is hard sometimes. Our world is a scary place. Like me in the car wash, we can't discern the way ahead. We pray but don't always seem to get an answer. Yet – Trust me” says God-in Jesus. “I'm always with you. Nothing can separate you from my love.” Amen to that.

We may only need to wash our car periodically but it is good to trust and obey God all the time.

*Rosemary*