

Last but Not Least

Know the Tree from Its Fruits.

A pastor was transferred from his rural parish to another parish in the town. Some weeks after his arrival, on his way from his home to his new parish church he got into a bus.

The conductor who issued the ticket accidentally gave him some extra coins as change and moved on. The pastor counted the coins and discovered the mistake. As he considered what to do, he thought himself, "You'd better give the money back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, after all, it's only few coins. Who would worry about this little amount? Moreover, it is his mistake. I did not take it by force. Anyway, the bus company is charging us too much; they will never mind it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door where the conductor was standing and then he handed the extra money he received and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The conductor, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new pastor in town?" "Yes" he replied. "Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about joining a church to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the pastor stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a few coins."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard - and remember - we carry the name of Christ on our foreheads when we call ourselves 'Christians.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.