

August 16, 2011

Dear Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission;

I was issued a First Violation Notice dated August 15, 2011 because of failure to pay the toll. I would like to explain the reason for my failure to pay.

The E-Z pass lanes are slated for E-Z pass vehicles only and I inadvertently entered one of these and did not have the E-Z pass transponder. I would like to tell you that I was removing my wallet from my pocket and trying to find a dime as well as get my ticket with the money and accidentally entered the E-Z pass turnstile. Of course I was miffed by this and knew that in time I would hear from you regarding not paying the toll.

When I received the letter with the amount of \$51.95 I was shocked at the amount and felt it exorbitant because my normal toll is \$1.10. I noted that the toll balance was \$26.95 and the administrative fee was \$25.00 and I was rather upset to say the least. I thought, "I drove 33 miles to work and much of my pay will go for this fine. I said to the Lord, "Why does this kind of thing have to happen to me?" The answer came to me a few hours later after receiving your letter.

The answer I believe is this. It is the same as someone trying to get God's favor by doing the right things. I did everything I was supposed to in order to meet the requirements of paying the toll except I got into the wrong lane. This is the same as many who try to get to God by doing the right things as much as they can only to discover it is not enough. There is another lane you are to be in and that is the narrow gate that leads to God. "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way." NLT, Matthew 7:13. "There is a way that seems right to man but its end is the way of death." NAS Proverbs: 14:12. We often hear people say, "I am a good person and God will weigh my good with my bad and on this He will let me into heaven." It sounds good in theory until you recognize that a Holy God cannot wink at sin and any breaking of His law will result in eternal separation from Him unless...we choose God's way. His way is this: Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father but through me." NLT, John 14:6. The Bible tells us that: "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." NLT Romans 3:23.

In order for us to be acceptable to God we can't achieve it by our own efforts, it is only by the fact that Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a man and lived a

sinless life and for this He was crucified. Talk about unfair. Well, it was necessary because in order for God to be able to accept anyone into His Kingdom (heaven) we must have our sins forgiven. Why would God do this, send His Son to die for our sins when we are sinners? This answer is in John 3:16; "For God loved the world (mankind) so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." NLT. It is a gift. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." NLT, Romans 6:23.

So, as I pondered the "Why?" of my getting this violation, other than my own stupidity, I realized it is a parallel of mankind with respect to his finding his way to God. One way is to do good works and hope that this will be sufficient and the other is to acknowledge our need for a savior because we can't even come close to being acceptable to God. The only way we can be accepted by God is to take Jesus as our sacrifice for our sin. Receive Him and give our life to Him. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." NAS, John 1:12.

Sounds easy doesn't it? It is easy to accept Jesus and if you do I would encourage you to find a Bible believing church that will nurture you in your new found faith.

This is the Good News that Jesus came into the world to die for our sins to satisfy the requirements of the law. He suffered and died and on the third day He arose from the dead. One day He will return and take us to the place He has prepared for those that love Him. It is glorious news to know we can live forever with a loving God.

OK, well, now you know how I came to accept my fine as well as how I came to accept Jesus as my Lord.

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$51.95.

Sincerely,

Ted Knight