

## JUST IN TIME

I finally made the decision to purchase snow tires for my Toyota Prius. I have had my own car since the age of 18 and in all the years I cannot remember having snow tires. Usually, I have had all-season or all-weather tires on my cars. If I am being honest, probably the reason why I have not invested in snow tires before now has had to do with my cheap nature.

What finally motivated me to open my wallet and purchase snow tires is my daughter has her licence now and this will be her first year driving by herself in winter conditions. I wanted some peace of mind and assurance knowing if she was ever out driving and the snow started coming down, she would have the safety of doing so with proper tires under these conditions.

The snow tires were installed this past Thursday and "just in time" considering the weather we experienced this past weekend. Sure enough, my daughter was driving home on Friday night when the snow started coming down heavily. Thankfully the tires helped her to get home safely on the treacherous roads.

On Saturday we had to travel to Unionville for two basketball games. We encountered heavy snow coming back and I was glad we had the snow tires on. Then on Sunday there were a lot of snow-covered portions on the road heading to church and back due to drifting. Once again, the snow tires gave us confidence being on the road. The purchase of snow tires was truly "just in time" for all the driving we had to do in bad weather these past few days.

On Monday I began thinking about doing things "just in time." This thought process got me remembering when I was studying to become an accountant during the mid-80's how "just in time" was becoming a popular concept in the business community. Many companies then were establishing "just in time" inventory practices. Deliveries would be scheduled to arrive "just in time" in order to keep the cost of maintaining inventory at a minimum. I have been out of the business world for 23 years now, so I imagine other inventory systems have replaced this.

I next began to ponder how "just in time" is found in Scripture as well. One example of this is found in the story of the one thief on the cross. Scripture

tells us how two thieves were placed on crosses on either side of Jesus. At first, both thieves made fun of Jesus, but as the one was approaching death, he had a change of heart. He asked Jesus for forgiveness and made a profession of faith when he said:

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. (Luke 23:42)**

Upon hearing this, Jesus assured this man that today he would be with Him in paradise. This profession of faith was made "just in time" in order for him to be blessed with spending eternal life with God in paradise.

Over these past few weeks, I have become aware of many people who have had family members pass away. A common worry that many of these surviving family members have shared is whether the deceased made a profession of faith "just in time" or not. Not knowing if their loved one made this decision is causing a lot of anxiety and concern for them during their grieving process.

With this in mind, for anyone reading this message who has not yet made a profession of faith in Jesus, now is the time to do so just like the thief on the cross did. By so doing we will provide our loved ones with much needed assurance after our passing that they will indeed see us one day in heaven. This will comfort our loved ones so much after our passing. We will also bless ourselves going forward living the rest of our lives here knowing we have Jesus to guide and help us as we drive down the roads of life.

If we have already made Jesus our Lord and Savior then let's make sure we keep being a positive witness to others right to the very end of our lives here on earth, just like Jesus did on the cross. By so doing we may discover we helped somebody "just in time" to experience the everlasting joys of paradise.

The snow seems to keep falling and so too are the temperatures this week. I do not open my wallet all the time, but I am glad I finally decided to open my wallet "just in time".

**Keep safe and God bless.**

**Pastor Dean**