

**September 28, 2019**

**Local Conference Advance**

***Holdup!*** Elder Wayne Olson, at the time the associate pastor of the Battle Creek Tabernacle church in Michigan, was out making pastoral visits. As he left one house and was going over his notes in the car, a man approached the open car window holding a gun and demanding his wallet. Pastor Olson reached for his wallet and handed it over, and the man started to leave. Suddenly the pastor said, “Wait, you forgot something.” When the surprised man returned, the pastor handed him a copy of *Steps to Christ*. We will never know the result of that bold deed, at least not here on earth, and Elder Olson drove away unharmed.

We almost shiver after hearing a story like that. What if it had been you or me?

Many years ago, Matthew Henry, a well-known Bible scholar, was once robbed of his wallet. Knowing that it was his duty to give thanks in everything, he meditated on this incident and recorded in his diary the following:

“Let me be thankful, first, because he never robbed me before; second, because although he took my purse, he did not take my life; third, because although he took all I possessed, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”

And, of course, we wouldn't want to be guilty of robbing God! So, let's faithfully set aside our tithes and offerings to bring to God's house each Sabbath.