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**MCD Just Checking In #66 Save yourself July 1, 2009 Pilgrim's Process**  
**Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a pilgrim with You..."**

**Some things in life are important.. some essential...some crucial.** The old phrase "take heed" is one of those cryptic, warnings about crucial, life and death issues. I spoke at an ordination service last evening, reminding a wonderful young man of God with one of those "take heed" passages: 1 Tim 4:16... take heed to yourself (self examination) and to the doctrine (textual exposition)... stick with it, and you'll save yourself and your hearers.

*Our first obligation as followers of Jesus is to save ourselves.* I know my soul is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. This warning, however, reminds us that daily deliverance from ourselves, our weaknesses, and our temptations is a matter of constant, personal vigilance. I am responsible to "wake up and pay attention" to my own heart, attitudes, motives and thought-life. If I do not pay attention to the doctrine (scriptural teaching) I will become a heretic. If I do not pay attention to myself, I will drift into spiritual complacency and become a hollow hypocrite. **Heresy and hypocrisy are equally lethal.** "Pay attention to yourself and your teaching; stay vigilant; for in doing so you will save yourself and those who listen to you."

**For further study: Read the "take heed" passage in its larger context and note the main point of the warning and how it applies to you.**

**1 Hypocrisy**

Mt 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them..."

Mt 16:6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

**2 Children**

Mt 18:10 "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

**3 Forgiveness**

Lu 17:3 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."

**4 Humility**

1Co 10:12 "...let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

**5 God's Word**

Mr 4:24 Then He said to them, "Take heed *what* you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given."

Lu 8:18 "Therefore take heed *how* you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

2Pe 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts

**6 Readiness for Christ's return**

Mr 13:33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is."

Lu 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Lu 21:34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."

Lu 21:8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived..."

**7 Pastoral Responsibilities**

Ac 20:28 "take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers..."

1Co 3:10... let each one take heed how he builds

Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

1Ti 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

"Lord, deliver me from laziness, both in my soul and in my study. Stir my heart and life to burn brightly for Your glory. Give me a fervency and faithfulness that will make my biblical exposition and my living example be one, harmonious song of praise to You! Amen."

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.**

**Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.