

Illustrated Bible Life

Rules of the Road

When I first moved to Kansas City, I had to take a written test to get my driver's license even though I had been driving for more than 10 years at that time. I have always been a diligent student about test-taking, so I took the driver's manual home and spent several hours going over the rules and regulations that I thought I knew so well. Imagine my surprise when I found that some of the regulations were new to me!

One rule I clearly remember had to do with merging on to a freeway or highway. According to the manual at that time, the person getting on the freeway had the right-of-way, not the person on the freeway (this is no longer the case). In a way, this made a lot of sense to me. If I'm traveling at 65 miles per hour on the freeway and someone is merging on at (hopefully) 50 or so and increasing speed, it is easy for me to adjust my speed to let them in, while it is not always easy to increase one's speed enough on the ramp to be able to pull into traffic going at a fast clip.

Since I read that rule, I've put it into practice. Seldom has my letting someone merge in front of me been a great inconvenience. There are those drivers, of course, who won't speed up. In the Kansas City area, however, the freeways are almost all more than two lanes, so if someone is taking their time to achieve the speed limit, it hasn't been too much trouble to simply go around them.

Rules and regulations are not always easy to follow. When I am driving, I always try to defer to those who are bent on getting their own way. I would rather slow down and back off than put myself in a situation where I might get into an accident. I've been driving long enough to know that impatience while driving seldom gets one to their destination any faster than simply going with the flow.

In our studies this quarter, we look at two letters by the apostle Paul and one by Jude, the brother of Jesus. All three letters contain instructions for Christians on living "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). When we have been a Christian a long time, we sometimes get complacent about what it means to live in such a manner.

As you read these letters this quarter, examine these words anew with fresh eyes. It is always a good idea to take another look at the "rules of the road."

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