

# Following the Weather Alert

During a particularly harsh winter, an elderly couple struggled to keep up with the many winter weather advisories.

One day, as they were sitting down for their usual cup of morning coffee, they listened to the weather report on the radio.

“There will be three to five inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. Drivers must park their cars on the odd-numbered side of the street today.”

The old man got up and dutifully moved his car to the “odd” side of the road.

A couple of days later, they heard another forecast. “There will be two to four inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. Drivers must park their cars on the even-numbered side of the street today.”



The old man got up and dutifully moved his car to the “even” side of the road.

A few more days later, there came another weather alert. “There will be six to eight inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. Drivers must park their cars on the ...” Before the weatherman could broadcast the final instructions, the power went out as a result of the storm.

“What am I going to do now?” moaned the old man.

“Oh no!” the old woman despaired. Then she thought for a moment and said, “Well, dear, why don’t you just leave the car in the garage today.”

Surprise ending to the story, huh? But before we laugh at this couple’s expense, we must admit there are times we all fall into lapses where we stop thinking for ourselves and mindlessly follow the crowd. If we are not careful, those lapses can turn into lifestyles of mindless legalisms.

Don’t be mentally, emotionally or spiritually lazy. Think for yourself. Make sure there is a real reason behind what you do.

The Bible is instructive on this subject: *Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect* (Romans 12:2 NLT).