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WHITED - Coins speak loud but actions can be deafening

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And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."

- Francis Scott Key, The Star Spangled Banner

Someone did something to me the other day and I was unarmed.

To be exact, I should say I was uncoined.

We have these character coins we're supposed to give out when we witness someone doing a kind deed. I had someone do me a kind deed and I had no coin to present.

Making a last-minute charge to the grocery store for one item for lunch which we were sure we had plenty of but didn't, I grabbed it and started for the check-out stand.

Gail Ballinger was just ahead of me in line and, seeing my lone item, urged me to go ahead of her. What a nice gesture. Her basket counted three items, so it wouldn't have been a long wait, but it was appreciated, just the same.

After leaving the store I realized I had my chance to give out one of the gold doubloons and I completely missed it.

As I contemplated that slip-up, I realized I have never been the recipient of a coin, and that says exactly one thing. I haven't done anything nice for anyone. And if I did, they too were coinless.

My wife is trying to do one kind thing every day, something that the recipient knows nothing about and can't retaliate. She says some days it's hard. But knowing her, she's always doing nice things and doesn't even realize it.

Now I know to whom I give my next coin.

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Speaking of gold coins ...

My conscience, by the name of Tony Fritz, says I should write something about the fact it's hard to find the inscription "In God We Trust" on the new gold dollars.

He believes the fact that the mint has etched the words on the edges of the coins is one step closer to eliminating the words off coinage altogether.

And that, to go a step further, is the government's way of eliminating God, or a mention of Him, out of the mainstream of Americana.

I don't disagree. But as I thought about it, I tried to remember when the last time was that I looked at those four words on a penny, a nickel, a dime or a quarter.

I'll tell you the last time. It was when I read that the words were enscribed on the edge of the new golden dollars. Before that, I don't know how long it had been ... probably years.

What does this say about me, and you if we are equally guilty? It says we take these things for granted. The words are there, whether we look at them each time we handle them or whether we think about it or not. It gives us some comfort to know we could find them if we looked. (It took me a while to find them on the dime.)

But we've got to realize that words without actions are meaningless. I need to remember my actions reflect whether I "trust in God" or not.

And that brings us back to character coins