

1st February 2021

Tread

**"I've served with zeal the land that gave me birth,
Fulfilled my course, and done my work on earth;
Have ever aimed to tread that shining road
That leads a mortal to the blessed God."**

Eneas Munson Sr, To the Memory of Capt. Nathan Hale

I've booked my car in for its MOT. For those reading this outside the UK, an MOT is an annual test all cars have to go through (from the third anniversary of registration) to ensure they're properly roadworthy. Only if your car is appropriately road-taxed, insured *and* has an MOT certificate can it be driven legally. Sixteen areas are checked in the MOT test. One of these is the tread on the car's tyres. This is what they're looking for:

*Cars, Goods Vehicles (<3,500kg), Trailers and Caravans (<3,500kg):
at least 1.6mm throughout a continuous band in the centre ¾ of the tread
and around the entire circumference of the tyre.*

And that's for all four tyres – and the spare, as I recall. So now you know!

If your tread's above the limit, you're legal. If your tread's below the limit, you're not legal. Your tyres will be dangerous in wet or icy weather. Your car will have failed its MOT. You'll not be permitted to drive it away.

I suspect that most of us – me included – don't check the tread on our tyres on a regular basis. They *look* all right. They're not flat. The car drives OK. There's no reason to think there might be a problem – until someone checks. We assume everything's fine, until we know differently.

A parable for us to take note of, perhaps? How often do I check how I "*tread that shining road that leads a mortal to the blessed God*"? Not often, and certainly not often enough. I *assume* everything's OK in my spiritual life. It's looks alright. I don't feel flat. I move through life without any apparent problem. There's no reason to think there might be an issue. But is my spiritual "tread" not worth checking from time to time?

Note to self: Think about when my spiritual MOT is due, and make sure everything's in proper working order as I drive away ...

Prayer for today

*Testing God, I'm happy to be on your road.
Are you happy that I'm road-worthy and safe to continue? Amen*

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