



Depth Perception

Commentary from Design For Ministry™

Wearing the Steward's Lens

Imagine a pile of eyeglasses from which you must choose a pair to correct your eyesight. Without the help of a trained optometrist it is difficult to know which pair serves best. Getting the prescription right makes the difference in seeing the world in all the brilliance it offers. Now imagine a variety of lenses you might use to interpret and apply the Scriptures. Which one would you choose and why?

We would want to choose the best lens so we can see all the brilliance the Scriptures offer. This is especially true in any conversation about stewardship — a term used to mean most anything [1] and often used in contradictory ways, many of which have no remaining Biblical mooring even though the word is often used by religious people.

Read the rest of this article at: www.christianleaders.org/lanes.com/resources/articles/2009/04/01/stewardship-articles.html#start=1

Downturn Echoes

The echoes of our economic downturn are still bouncing off the canyon's walls. Now we are learning that an increasing number of those who overdosed on credit, hoping their income would eventually catch up to the debt, are now torching or hiding their cars and trying to collect the insurance (*Wall Street Journal*, 25 March 2009, p.A3). They are doing it in environmentally unfriendly ways too: burning the vehicle's upholstery and dumping auto carcasses in waterways.

It is a high irony: we excuse the unchecked pyramid of greed that is a significant factor in this downturn, claiming that the

consumer/taxpayer who was duped by underpriced loans and overextended credit is basically innocent, but we consider it a criminal act to burn one's car, abandon it in the desert and report it stolen.

The irony is that the same attitude of getting something NOW without having to work for it lies under all these actions. It does not matter whether it is an AIG executive bonus, insurance fraud or believing that a mortgage on which I pay no principle is a good thing. All of it is based on greed and inability to postpone desire.

We must consider the fact that we have done some long-term damage to our ethos. We have laid out in the damaging rays of our self-deception for too long and the harmful effects, spots and wrinkles are on full display.

The only solution I can think of is to live well within my means, to love my family and neighbors deeply, and to teach my children well—so well in fact, that they teach their children also.

Join me?

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