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Layman's Lumber & Panel Guide

ANOTHER DIMENSION

Thought Provoking and Inspirational

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FAIR WARNING! My Second Son is Studying Philosophy!

Two down...three to go. Well not quite. Actually I have just barely begun. #1 son is a junior in college this year and #2 son begins next week with a philosophy major.

That means I am going to get exposed to some real progressive thinking over the next four years. Already he has recommended a couple of books for me to read so we can have some in depth dialogue.

Only twenty or so pages into the first one I realized I had been putting the book down every couple of pages, pondering the profundities within.

I'll share one with you...it is a poem.

Through return to simple living...comes control of desires.

In control of desires stillness is attained.

In stillness the world is restored. Lao-Tse

The first line was enough to stop me cold in my tracks. *Through return to simple living comes control of desires.*

I have been explaining for the last several months how I believe America is in the midst of a gluttonous consumption frenzy. Evidence that we are ruled by our "me-go's" is rampant.

The most common diagnosis by shrinks these days is that their patients are in denial, but I surely don't see many of us doing without anything. If there is one thing we are in denial about it is our inability or unwillingness to deny ourselves anything. Perhaps that is because it is too easy for us to get anything we want. ANYTHING!!!

So, I have pondered what returning to simple living means. It is obvious my own life is far from simple. I've got toys galore and it seems that every so often I just get one because I can or because I want it. Maybe the first step in returning to simple living is be thankful, grateful and satisfied with what we have.

Once we are satisfied with what we have then it follows that our desires will wane, and ultimately we will gain control over our desires.

Try to imagine how many world problems would be solved if just a small percentage of the population could gain control of their desires. That is some powerful stuff.

I cannot help but wonder (sounds like Andy Rooney, huh?) what happened to that single grain of truth as modern religions evolved.

How big was the last building program or fund raiser at your church? Sure, I know...it is for a good cause...reaching the unchurched. Should I say it? Oh, what the heck...go ahead.

How much could be done to meet the immediate physical needs of suffering people using the billions of dollars in real estate that is used less than one day a week. That my friends is desire out of control. Any one of the downtown churches in any city in the U.S. could probably house every single homeless person in town. Then they wouldn't have to walk very far to get three free meals every day.

Sure, I have an attitude. We are not solving problems in this country. We are creating new ones and perpetuating them, all in the name of selfishness and out of control desires. I am just as guilty as anyone...so what? I don't know, but its about time we become part of the solution.

I'm cancelling the screen porch. We'll just have to swat the bugs this fall. Maybe I'll go find some homeless guy and take him for a ride on my Harley. How's that for sacrificial?

Happy Trading...ML

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