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“But Baby, It’s Cold Outside”

by
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It’s that time of year... Winter is trying its darndest to make one last appearance by keeping the blustering cold winds and snow hanging over us... Spring is trying to make its entry into our lives by sneaking through a few really nice days and we remain confused as to what to wear each day and whether to turn the heater off and/or the air conditioner on. Tornados are becoming more prevalent throughout the U.S. trying to prepare us for the hurricane season which is just around the corner, and all we’re really interested in is, “When can I get my fishing poles out and do some serious trout and bass fishing on a regular basis.

For those of us who enjoy the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons of WV we see the light at the end of Winter’s tunnel and that gives us the strength to hold on for another few weeks until the warm weather will be a reality fulltime and not just a tease that comes our way. The streams will be rushing, the sun will be shining, the trees will be blossoming and garden planters will be checking with their almanacs for just the right time to put in their potatoes.

With all the natural beauty getting ready to spring forth we would really like to spend our time and thoughts on the romantic and pleasant things of life. Unfortunately, it’s becoming harder and harder to mentally turn off the overwhelming hype of politics that fills the airwaves and the continual drone of why we need to stop flying, stop driving SUVs, stop grazing cattle, stop cutting down the trees, start growing more corn to make an alternative fuel and ignore the billions of tons of nature’s own coal lying beneath our feet. We’re told the demise of this great planet is just around the corner and to re-enforce that rhetoric... just so we’ll know the “experts” know what they’re talking about... the Al Gore “documentary” “An Inconvenient Truth,” was awarded an Oscar for its outstanding presentation of the truth... as they know it.

Let me ask one question... rhetorical though it may be... do any of you out there actually believe that all those beautiful people in the film industry heed their own words and give up flying by jet plane; take mass transit and leave their limos at home; or fill their homes with the new type of fluorescent lights that supposedly cut down on the drain of electricity? Do you really believe they do that? Of course if they don’t they, and you I suppose, have an acceptable “out” that will salve your conscience and wash away your sins.

How many of you are familiar with indulgences? If you are a member of a particular religious group that is known for selling indulgences you’ll know how this works. An indulgence is something you purchase from the church that in theory states if you pay a particular sum of money

you will be absolved from any and all sins you might commit for the next umpteen years or even for the rest of your life. I just read in USA Today that if one chooses to skip all the rules and fly on the forbidden jets, he or she can buy an indulgences by paying \$5, \$10 or more per ticket. Of course they don't refer to the extra cost as an indulgence fee... they call it an offset. The airline charges the extra money, the offset, and then donates that amount to companies or organizations that invest in wind farms, solar energy, and other green projects. Of course these other groups selling the indulgences take the money and do who-knows-what with it, but the important thing is your guilt for taking the gas guzzling, polluting airplane is absolved and the airline forgiven as well for their sin of allowing all those environmentally incorrect monstrosities to fly in our pristine skies.

I also just heard that the United Nations is also proposing a “carbon tax”, or some such thing, on those nations who have historically been the leading producers of atmospheric pollutants in the world. Looks like another attempt to get more money out of the United States coffers and into the deep pockets of our friends in the UN. Let's hope we won't be fooled into going along with such a ridiculous ploy.

As we've stated before folks... we all want to take care of the great natural beauty and resources that the good Lord gave us to enjoy and provide for our existence, and we want to manage them in a way that will protect the continued beauty and resources. However, we musn't let it or those who try to use it as a manipulative tool to scare us into accepting a way of life for ourselves that is not necessary for the continued welfare of the world.