

Over the cliff, or not...

Here at the end of 2012, the entire American economy is waiting with bated breath to see what's going to happen in Washington, DC. Will we go over the fiscal cliff or will we avoid it? America wants to know!

Fact is, we don't know what's going to happen at the cliff's edge, on the other side, or even this afternoon. But thanks be to God, He does.

Our confidence doesn't come from good fiscal policy from our lawmakers (though it would be good to have some, wouldn't it?). Instead, our confidence comes from knowing that our Heavenly Father watches over us with an eye to make us more like His Son, Jesus. Sometimes that includes dealing with difficult economic situations. You know, there's nothing to show what we're made of spiritually, like a good financial crisis!

God wants *us* to see our hearts the way *He* sees them. So on occasion, He allows us to get a good look at them by bringing about crises of some sort or another. When the crisis is financial, we get to see which we love more... God, or goods.

Does our financial crisis make us short of temper, unloving, devious, or prone to theft? Or does our financial crisis make us more sensitive to those without, more grateful for what we have, more prone to recognize that "every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17)?

Jesus said, "No one is able to serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt 6:24).

Not real complex, is it?

Trust in God is only seen when trust in God is needed. When our *stuff* is such that we are able to trust in it, watch out; it's then when it may be taken away in order to help us put our trust where it needs to be... in God alone.

Pastor