

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A HOLE, STOP DIGGING

Will Rogers

I have read and heard the above and many versions of it most of my life. It represents the most basic kind of common sense, yet.....

In my own experience I have found myself in many holes of my own creation digging away.

Observation has shown me that this seems a common human failing.

From those addicted to gambling - what's the old line - went to Reno in a twenty thousand dollar Chevrolet and came home on a ninety thousand dollar Greyhound - and keep on digging -

To those who pour their life savings and huge amounts of borrowed capital into a business venture that was doomed from the start - and keep on digging -

Many others give everything they have into a destructive relationship - whether it is a personal relationship with another individual, or some failed ideology, political agenda, drugs, alcohol, debt, accumulation of "toys" or..... - and keep on digging.

In nearly all cases the above is the result of individuals finding themselves in a hole of their own making and needing someone, or some set of circumstances, to "slap them up side the head" to get them to stop digging and work on building a ladder out of the hole they got themselves into. Then fill the hole.

In too many cases, folks do not get that helpful "slap up side the head" and end up with their lives in tatters and the only possibility is some form of Bankruptcy or worse.

I was once told by a Pastor that not every broken life can be fixed by our good intentions and personal efforts and we must first sometimes let folks "crash and burn" before they are willing to accept a helping hand.

For truly colossal hole digging on steroids you need Government. For these folks there is no program or scheme ever devised that has dug itself into a hole that cannot be "fixed" with more..... More Tax Dollars. More Bureauocrats. More Regulations. More time..... All forms of digging. They never get that "slap up side the head" and say "wow, this isn't working..... let's shut it down, stop digging and fill this hole in."

Governments never seems to learn and can't file Bankruptcy. Whether like the Romans, who came up with "free" Bread and Circus's (today's "free" Welfare and Flatscreens), until they could no longer fund it through ever increasing taxes and worth less and less fiat money, and their Empire collapsed. Or, any number of other Governments and Empires that litter the dust bin of history. All governments seen to - just keep on digging.

Government. We voted for them. Will we ever learn? Or, just keep on digging.

Common sense yes, but to quote Will Rogers again: "Common Sense ain't common".

Bob Bandy