

October 26, 2019

## **Local Conference Advance**

*Dubious bargains.* Have you noticed how things in the store are getting smaller and smaller, but their price remains the same? That the new “gallon” of ice cream is something like 56 ounces, and the candy bars have shrunk but the price hasn’t?

Have you noticed how early the stores are pushing all the holidays—putting out the Christmas merchandise even before Thanksgiving, the Valentine merchandise in early January, followed in quick succession by the Easter stuff?

Do you know why gum and candy and magazines are featured as you walk through the checkout line? And why a half-hour television program is 15 minutes of content and 15 minutes of commercials?

Welcome to the world of materialism, where consumers are victimized every day, and their likes and dislikes are even tracked by company computers.

It would seem to us that a big part of Christian stewardship should be smart shopping and awareness of the tricks of the trade; cutting back on, or even cutting up, our credit cards; and avoiding debt by not spending money we don’t have.

Today’s offering is for Local Conference Advance, which includes evangelism and youth programs. Rather than spend money we don’t have, let’s invest what we do have in God’s kingdom.

