

**Wednesday, July 4**



**Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee**

In re-reading an International Pastoral Letter called *The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good*, I am reminded of the wisdom of the Catholic bishops of our region at that time. They wrote of signs of hope and need, of directions within ourselves and areas of awareness to be deepened.

In speaking of spiritual and social consciousness, they wrote: “Our awareness of the presence of God, who is lovingly concerned about creation, and our openness to God’s grace enlightening and strengthening us, enable us to confront the conditions that concern us, and to affirm and commend the signs of hope that we see. One of the key concepts that applies to our entire discussion is simply respect .... People must exercise a basic respect for one another, for God, for other creatures and for the environment. Individuals also need to respect the rights of others, including those engaged in agriculture, mining, forestry and the like.

”The second step in spiritual, social, and ecological transformation is to reflect on the waters of our memory as they are expressed in regional and religious traditions. The history of the Columbia Watershed is described in people’s written and oral stories, and is evident in geological formations and biological diversity.”

*The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good (Pg 5)*

“The prophets of Israel always maintained the creative balance between God’s promises and human responsibility. Their understanding of human life as a covenant with God implied that God’s reign was always mediated through responsible systems of justice within the land. When the people prayed to God, the prophets would admonish them to integrate into their social structures the justice and mercy they desired from God. The prophets called people to practice integrity within their society in the present while at the same time assuring them of the wondrous promises which God pledged for their future ... God’s goal of restoring creation to its intended wholeness motivates the human will to promote reform within society.”

Stephen J. Binz, *Stewardship of the Earth (Pg 95)*

How well do we hear this call within us to grow outward? Are we integrating mercy and justice into our social Structures? Think about it: Pray about it.