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Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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What Does God Do with Heaven's Trash?

Allen Webster



Trash has become a problem for America.

The average American generates four pounds of solid trash per day, for a grand total of 1460 pounds per year. Although Americans represent roughly 5 percent of the world's population, we generate 40 percent of its waste.

Landfills are full and incinerators pollute the environment. Industrial waste and medical refuse spread disease. Houses are cluttered with old stuff that "we might have a use for sometime," old appliances deface property, and residents are saddled with rising waste service fees and surcharges.

Does heaven have this problem? What does God do with His trash? The only "trash" we read of God having is the sins He removes from human souls. What does God do with this "trash"? ▶▶▶



HE BURIES IT.

Landfills are a popular way of getting rid of our trash, and so it is with God's trash. David wrote, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1; 85:2; Romans 4:6-8). *Covered* means "completely covered over," as pitch covered Noah's ark (Genesis 6:14).

HE CASTS IT INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.

Though better regulated now, at times great amounts of trash have been taken out into the sea and dumped. The Pacific Ocean is actually the world's largest "landfill." The Eastern Garbage Patch, which floats between Hawaii and California, is estimated to be twice the size of Texas.

God uses "the ocean" as a dumping ground for a more "environmentally friendly" kind of waste disposal. He casts our forgiven sins there. "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19).

Two thirds of the earth's surface is water, and the deepest places on earth are beneath it. Most of it remains unexplored—never even visited by humans. Millions of varieties of plants and animals are thought to be yet undiscovered in its depths. So if you wanted to hide something, the best place on the third rock from the sun would be in the ocean.

This is the figure God chose to use to communicate to us how lost our sins become once they are forgiven. Bible commentators draw a comparison between this and the destruction of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. Not a single Egyptian soldier survived when God cast them into "the depths of the sea;" so no sin can survive this plunging (Exodus 15:9-10).

Sins are not simply cast into the sea, but into the depths of the sea. If they were carelessly tossed from the shore, they might wash back up to be seen again. Or they might be visible at low tide. There is no chance of that happening in this case. They are forever buried at such a depth they can never be discovered. Corrie ten Boom was known to say that God put our sins in the deepest sea and then put up a sign that said, "No Fishing." There is no fishing for our own sins, nor any for the sins of others.

HE FLINGS IT BEHIND HIS BACK (ISAIAH 38:17) AND HIDES HIS FACE FROM IT (PSALM 51:9).

We often use the phrase "out of sight, out of mind" because we tend to forget things we can't see. For instance, have you ever forgotten to pay a bill because it got mixed in a stack of mail and you forgot it was due? An omniscient God never forgets anything—unless He does so on purpose. He purposely conceals our sins so they are not remembered. What a comforting thought!

When our sins are forgiven, they are forgotten. The past is gone, dead, crucified, remembered no more. What God forgives, He forgets.

HE EXPORTS IT.

Some trash has been exported to poor countries, who either felt they could salvage something from it or felt the price they were paid was worth it. God exports our sins. He removes them from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). It is interesting that God did not use the similar figure of "as far as the north is from the south" because you can only go so far north and then you must go south. Therefore, the distance from the North Pole to South Pole is a specific distance—12,403 miles. But when will east meet west? It never will, because you can go east for the rest of your life and never start to go west. How far is it from east to west? It is infinite. That is how far God removes our sins from us!

HE OBLITERATES IT.

Some types of rubbish (military munitions, for instance) are destroyed by exploding them. They are obliterated. You could say that God obliterates our sins. They are erased from His memory forever (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). One man complained to his coworker about a fight he had with his wife the night before. "She got really worked up. I mean eventually she got historical."

His friend laughed and said, "You mean she got hysterical."

"No, she got historical. She brought up every mistake I have made in the last ten years of our marriage."

That is the way we sometimes "forgive." We keep a mental record of offenses and bring them up again later. But God is not like that. Forgiven sin has no "history." It is forever gone. Jesus came to "make an end of sins" and to bring in "everlasting righteousness" (Daniel 9:24).

Our sins are expunged from our official file (Isaiah 44:22), when we obey His Gospel by believing in Jesus (John 3:16), repenting of sin (Luke 13:3), confessing Christ (Matthew 10:32), and being baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Since they are erased, they cannot be imputed (Psalm 32:2; Romans 4:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:19). That is, God does not reckon this sin against us. The word "impute" is a mathematical or bookkeeping term. God keeps a record of our debts (sins); but, in forgiving them, He no longer keeps up with it. The ledger has a zero balance (Ezekiel 18:22; 33:16).

Rest easy, God has heaven's trash under control.

Trivial Treasures

Every day Americans buy

- ▶ 3,972,603 movie tickets
- ▶ 1,683,835 songs and albums from online resources
- ▶ 568,764 Titleist golf balls
- ▶ 443,650 large French fries at Burger King
- ▶ 160,968 bottles of Absolute Vodka
- ▶ 7,500 Samsung LCD TVs

—Nancy Gibbs, “One Day in America,” *Time Magazine*, 11/26/07

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth . . .” —Colossians 3:2

The Big Bang Theory

I have to come clean and confess that I believe in the Big Bang. Now wait! Don't stop reading here. Let me explain. The Bible, itself, teaches a “Big Bang.” Read it for yourself . . .

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

There you have it . . . “The Big Bang.” The evolutionists are partly right, but their timing is wrong. The biblical “Big Bang” didn't occur at the beginning of time, as the evolutionists teach.

However, it will occur at the end of time. The “Big Bang” didn't bring things into existence, but it will take things out of existence.

—Steve Higginbotham, Glasgow, Kentucky

Give Me a Size 8

A guy walks into a shoe store and asks for a pair of shoes, size 8. The well-trained salesman says, “But sir, you take an 11 or eleven-and-a-half.”

“Just bring me a size 8.”

The sales guy brings them, and the man stuffs his feet into them and stands up in obvious pain. He turns to the salesman and says, “I've lost my house to the IRS, I live with my mother-in-law, my daughter ran off with my best friend, and my business has filed Chapter 7.”

“The only pleasure I have left is to come home at night and take my shoes off.”

“A merry heart doeth good . . .” —Proverbs 17:22



My Cup Has Overflowed

I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now. But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow. And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough— But I've got loving ones all around me, and that makes me rich enough. I thank God for His blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, My faith wore somewhat thin. But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again. So Lord, help me not gripe about the tough rows I've hoed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough, I'll not ask for other blessings; I'm already blessed enough. And may I never be too busy to help others bear their loads. Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

“Blessings are upon the head of the just.” —Proverbs 10:6

You Can't Fool God

You can fool the hapless public. You can be a subtle fraud. You can hide your little meanness, but you can't fool God. You can advertise your virtues. You can self-achievement laud. You can load yourself with riches, but you can't fool God.

You can criticize the Bible. You can be a selfish clod. You can lie, swear, drink, and gamble, but you can't fool God. You can magnify your talent. You can hear the world applaud. You can boast yourself as somebody, but you can't fool God. —Author Unknown

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked . . .” —Galatians 6:7

In Case of Accident

As he was filling out an employment application, a man paused over this question: “Person to notify in case of an accident.”

Finally he wrote, “Anybody in sight.” —from Good Clean Funnies List

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The  **HOME**

PAGE
Stash Your Cash

According to finance columnist Liz Weston, these tips for saving money may sound like gimmicks, but they work!

Pad your accounts. Enter a check to yourself for \$100, \$500, or more in your personal finance software or checkbook. The hidden money provides a cushion to prevent overdrafts.

Cull your bills. Pick a denomination—ones, fives, or even ten-dollar bills—and whenever you find one, toss it into a jar.

Institute a family tax. Have each family member deposit \$1 a day in a piggy bank. By the end of a year you'll have enough money to buy your Christmas presents—with cash!

Save your reimbursements. Weeks can pass before your employer pays you back for travel expenses. Instead of spending the check, deposit the money into a savings account.

Realize your rebates. Most grocery stores print your savings from rebates and coupons on the receipt. Transfer the amount to a savings account, or toss the corresponding cash into an envelope or jar.

Save raises. Earmark part of the extra cash for your retirement contributions or savings. —From *10 Easy Ways to Stash Away Thousands*

"There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up" — Proverbs 21:20



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

Don't Forget to Live

Someone wrote, "The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it."

- ▶ First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
- ▶ And then I was dying to finish college and start working.
- ▶ And then I was dying to marry and have children.
- ▶ And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.
- ▶ And then I was dying to retire.
- ▶ And now, I am dying . . . and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.

"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" —James 4:14

More Is Caught than Taught



▶ If a child is taught that he is his own authority, he will look upon all other authority with disrespect. If a child is taught that God and His word are final authority, he will look upon all authority emanating from Him with respect.

▶ If a child is taught he is part of the theory of evolution, he will look upon Himself as an advanced animal. If a child is taught that he is created in the image of God, he will look upon himself as an immortal soul.

▶ If a child sees the Bible is only read in church assemblies, he will look upon it as unrelated to daily life. If a child sees the Bible read and obeyed in his house and education, he will look upon it as a guide to life and eternity.

▶ If a child is taught that there is no absolute truth, he will look upon morals as subject to his emotions of the moment. If a child is taught that God's word is absolute truth, he will look upon morals as subject to firm biblical precepts.

▶ If a child is allowed to read profane and foul literature, he will look upon life as permissive and perverted. If a child is taught that God hears and answers prayers, he will look upon prayer as a source of strength to help through life.

▶ If a child is taught that reasonable parental discipline is an infringement upon his right, he will look upon his parents and teachers with contempt. If a child is taught that parents are responsible to God to discipline him for his highest eternal good, he will look upon his parents with love and respect.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Wrong Motivation

One day, as my four-year-old son and I were walking to our car from Bible class, my son said to me, "Mom, I'm not going to sin anymore." You can imagine my joy at hearing this. Then I got to wondering why he said this, so I asked him. This was his answer: "Jesus said if you don't sin, you can throw the first stone, and I want to throw the first stone."

"Love one another; as I have loved you." —John 13:34

If only eight people were on the ark, where did the races come from?



The census of those on the ark included Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons (Genesis 7:13). With these four men and four women, the earth was repopulated after the flood.

The Bible does not tell us when the races originated. It is possible that the races developed from the division of mankind at the tower of Babel, although Moses only says

that God confounded their language and scattered them abroad (Genesis 11:1-9). As people scattered and separated, the races could have developed from the gene pool in each area. As people intermarried within a region, certain racial characteristics developed, as well as individual languages.

Modern science has tried to differentiate among the races, recognizing four basic races: Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Negroid, and Australoid. The problem with these classifications, however, is that the dominant characteristics that are specific to a race, such as skin color or hair type, are found in the other racial groups. Skin color, the most obvious racial characteristic, is determined primarily by the amount of melanin in the skin. Thus a "white" person may actually have darker skin than a "black" person. Although general racial characteristics may predominate among certain populations, all human beings are part of the same species, the human race.

We know that all humans came from the original man and woman, Adam and Eve, and that all living human beings are descendants of Noah and his family. Paul declared that God "made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). The words "of one," literally mean "out of one male," thus all mankind has descended from Adam.

Since all humans descended from the eight people on the ark, then all racial characteristics must have been available in the genetic makeup of Noah and his family. It is likely that Noah's family members were a combination of all modern day races. The separation into current races was gradual over time.

Neither the biblical nor the non-biblical evidence supports the evolutionary theory, coming from racial prejudice, that the races descended from different primates or "pre-human" men. Since all races of humans can intermarry, all humans are inter-related. —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203

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Bible Quiz



Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries, and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament audios, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Starts with the Letter "K"

Find answers in Genesis 22:10; 25:1; 46:11; Numbers 16:1-32; 20:1; Job 42:14; Joshua 14:14-15; 15:54; 1 Samuel 9:3; 2 Samuel 15:23; Matthew 16:19; Luke 22:48; 1 Timothy 6:15 (not in order).

- Abraham took a "_____ to slay his son."
- _____ Brook David crossed fleeing from Absalom
- _____ Place where Miriam died
- _____ Early name for Hebron; place Caleb inherited
- _____ Father of King Saul
- _____ Middle son of Levi
- _____ Judas betrayed Jesus with this
- _____ Led rebellion against Moses; swallowed by earth
- _____ Youngest of Job's daughters
- _____ The wife of Abraham, after the death of Sarah
- Jesus is "_____ of kings and Lord of lords."
- Jesus promised to give to Peter the _____ of the kingdom.

Find the Hidden Bible Names

Find these Bible names in the sentences below: Abel, Adam, Amos, Asa, Boaz, Caleb, Eli, Enoch, Elisha, and Eve.

Example: Ada made a speech to the crowd. Answer: Adam

- _____ Dynamo sessions begin at two o'clock.
- _____ Please—No Children Allowed!
- _____ Give me the simple life!
- _____ The boa zipped through the grass.
- _____ Nonalcoholic ale beats turpentine for removing paint.
- _____ Use a sack for a Halloween mask.
- _____ The clever lad amused the king with his magical tricks.
- _____ The party started with the sound of a bell.
- _____ Nothing is as pesky as a mosquito.
- _____ The motel is half full tonight.

Answers to Last Issue: Starts with the Letter "S": 1. Shepherd (Psalm 23:1); 2. Sabbath (Exodus 16:23, 26); 3. Samson (Judges 16:9); 4. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20); 5. Sapphira (Acts 5:1); 6. Sarah (Genesis 17:15, 19); 7. Satan (Matthew 4:10); 8. Saul (1 Samuel 15:1); 9. Seth (Genesis 4:25); 10. Shamgar (Judges 3:31); 11. Shem (Genesis 5:32); 12. Sabachthani (Matthew 27:46); 13. Sihon (Numbers 21:21); 14. Silas (Acts 15:40); 15. Sin (1 John 3:4); 16. Sodom (Genesis 19:24); 17. Solomon (1 Kings 1:17); 18. Stephen (Acts 7:58-60); 19. Shield (Ephesians 6:16); 20. Sheep (Psalm 100:3); 21. Salt (Genesis 19:26); 22. Sadducees (Matthew 16:6); 23. Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16); 24. Spider (Proverbs 30:28); 25. Snow (Isaiah 1:18).

Suppose a man had lived upon this earth

for 1800 years. And suppose that during these 1800 years, he had

- ▶ often been thrown into the sea and yet could not be drowned;
- ▶ been frequently thrown to wild beasts who were unable to devour him;
- ▶ been forced many times to drink deadly poisons that never harmed him;
- ▶ often been bound in chains and locked in dungeons, yet had always thrown off the chains and escaped;
- ▶ repeatedly been hanged till his enemies thought him dead, yet when his body was cut down, he sprang to his feet and walked away;
- ▶ been burned at the stake hundreds of times, till there seemed to be nothing left of him, yet as soon as the fires were out, he leaped up from the ashes as vigorous as ever!

We would call such a man indestructible. Such a man would be superhuman.

This is practically the way the Bible has been treated. It has been burned, drowned, chained, put in prison, and torn to pieces, yet it has never been destroyed! Bernard Ramm wrote, "A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put." —B. J. Clarke, Southaven, Mississippi

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever . . ." —1 Peter 1:25



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Jesus, the Master Craftsman

A distinguished British violinist named Peter Cropper was such an outstanding musician that the Royal Academy of Music in London honored him by lending him a priceless 258-year old Stradivarius. It is the dream of every violinist to be able to play such an instrument, but a terrible thing happened while Cropper was performing in Finland. He tripped and fell on top of the Stradivarius and broke it. Cropper's pleasant dream was turned into a horrible nightmare. He was inconsolable.

Then a London violin dealer told him of a master craftsman who could repair the Stradivarius. To make a long story short, the repairs were so perfect they could not even be seen, and the soaring notes of the instrument were more beautiful than they had ever been before—all because the broken parts were placed in the hands of a master craftsman who then applied his healing touch.

Yes, Jesus Christ is the one for whom we have been looking. Something terrible happens, sin enters, and our lives are broken. Then we turn them over to Jesus Christ, who is the Master Craftsman of all time. He takes the broken pieces and puts them back together again, and we are better than new! —John Thomas

Randolph, *The Best Gift* (adapted)

“Behold, I make all things new.” —Revelation 21:5

Just Two Percent Matters

One time I had trouble with mice, so I bought some d-CON. I noticed on the package that only 2 percent of its contents was actually poison. The rest was edible.

Now if some educated mouse could read, he might reason: “But there is so much good in it, a little bit won't harm me, and besides, I'm hungry.” Yet all that good food didn't do that poor creature much good, because the little bit of poison either killed him or gave him some mighty nasty indigestion. The 98 percent nourishment was useless if that 2 percent killed him! The 98 percent was not enough to offset the 2 percent. The makers of d-CON know they have to put much good-tasting food in before mice will be tempted to eat that little bit that kills them.

This is parallel with a situation we often find in religion. Many feel that if there is so much good in their doctrines, a little bit of error won't hurt them. However, the devil is smart enough to give people enough of the truth to make his lies appear wholesome, but just enough error to condemn. No one will benefit from 98 percent truth if there is 2 percent error mixed in with it. Man won't go 98 percent to heaven and 2 percent to hell; he'll go to either one place or the other. Did not James say, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”? (James 2:10). The person who rejects 2 percent of the truth of God is guilty, just like the person who rejects all. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Think about it. —Author Unknown





What's So Great about Following Jesus?



Following Jesus puts us in association with the best people in the world.

In God's church, we are His house or family (1 Timothy 3:15). Our relationship is that of brothers and sisters (Galatians 3:26–27).

My brothers and sisters understand what I go through as a Christian. They are pulling with me and for me. Who wouldn't enjoy a family like that! Our fellowship is with saved people, the children of light (Ephesians 5:8).

Though none is perfect, so many of my brethren in the Lord set a wonderful example for me to imitate (1 Timothy 4:12). You cannot put a price tag on that type of positive influence. So many saints of God do great works and labors of love (Hebrews 6:10), being ready to sacrifice for His Cause, like Aquila and Priscilla did (Romans 16:3–5).

How wonderful it is to have sisters and brothers in Christ who really do care about us, desiring most of all that we make it to heaven. We are also blessed to have special brothers who serve as our shepherds and watch over our souls (Hebrews 13:17). You just cannot top the delightful association and comradeship that Christians have in serving God together.

“Come and see” (John 1:39). —Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee