

THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

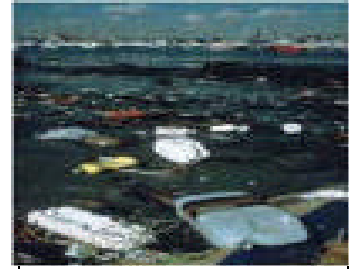
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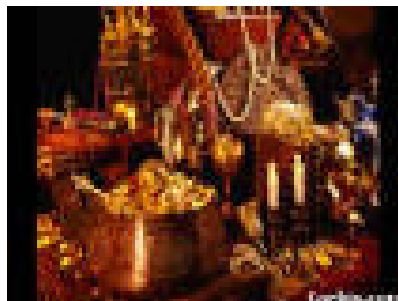
TRASH or TREASURE ?

My wife and I have been cleaning out a house. It belongs to an elderly man. There is a very sad side in that these changes take place and often those who are elderly have to leave their homes and possessions behind and take lodgings where they will be better cared for. But then, there's a even more serious side to this sad tale too! Someone has to deal with all the baggage of life.

Imagine our consternation when we walked into this home that even on the exterior clearly showed signs of neglect. It would be impossible to appreciate the wall to wall clutter - the floor to ceiling accumulation - the piles and heaps of this and that and the "other". The boxes, the bags, the drawers, the muddle and disarray of it all. We spent nearly a year making sense and order of it. It was only a two bedroom one-level home yet the final analysis after



"Trash—lots of it!"



several relatives took what they could use—including 65 very large bags of trash, 2 additional truck and trailer loads to the Dump, a load to the metal recycler, another load of combustible things, 2 garage sales to sell some of the better stuff, 2 loads to Charity Stores with some useful items for the less fortunate AND we still have a box with thousands of coins, a big chest full of faux jewelry and some cherished furniture items stored at our house.

Trash—YES— and lots of it! Treasure— PERHAPS— and not too much.

Ever stop to think about the stuff of life? Do we know how to deal with the Trash? Are we valuing the Treasure?

Do we hang on to things of little value which steal our time and hinder our progress as believers and examples to those we seek to win? May God help us to use the things that we have and to store up treasure in heaven where moth doth not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal?

Our World View

An architect was finishing some important drawings at home one evening to meet an early morning deadline while his six-year-old daughter, Katy, continued to interrupt with one question after another. Finally, he reached into a nearby magazine rack looking for something to keep her occupied. On the cover of one magazine was a full-length color photograph of the earth taken from space by an astronaut during one of the early Apollo missions. He tore off the cover and cut the photograph into several pieces with a pair of scissors to make --a puzzle. Then handing them to his daughter with a roll of tape, he said, "Here, Katy. Take this into the other room and see if you can put it together." Then with a renewed resolve, he turned again to his work.

After ONLY a few minutes, Katy returned with a big smile on her face holding up the photograph correctly fitted together. Her father looked on in amazement.

"How did you ever finish this so quickly?" he asked.

She replied, "**Well, at first I was very confused; the world was so mixed up!** With all the different colors, shapes, and sizes, I didn't even know where to start.

But then I noticed that. . . . **on the OTHER side of the world - there was a picture of a MAN. And when I put HIM together -- the world just fell into place!"**

