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**Clean Up What You’ve Messed Up**

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(Psalm 119:9-11 KJV)

*9Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.11Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

I

want to talk to you for moment about trash and garbage! You know that most men have a hard time with the garbage at the house! A woman once went away on a long weekend retreat with a group of women from her church. About halfway through the final Monday-morning session, she suddenly jumped to her feet and left the room hurriedly. A concerned friend followed her to see what had caused her to leave the meeting so hastily. She found her friend just as she was hanging up a telephone in the lobby. "Is everything all right?" she asked urgently. "Oh, yes," the woman responded. "I didn't mean to cause you alarm." A bit shamefacedly, she added, "I suddenly remembered that its Monday morning trash day." "Trash day? Your husband is still at home. Surely!" "Yes," the woman interrupted, "but it takes two of us to put out the trash. I refuse to touch it or carry it. And he can't remember it."

But you know what I have noticed about trash day? I have never had a trash man come to my front door and ring the doorbell, asking me where my trash to throw out is. I have never had that happen. If it’s not out there by the curb, they just move on!

Have you noticed the amount of trash that goes out of your house? The average American makes about 3 pounds of garbage each day. In 1991, a judge fined brothers Geno and Russell Capozziello, owners of a Bridgeport, Connecticut, wrecking company, nearly $900,000 for operating an illegal dump. In 1986, on the empty lots surrounding their facility, the brothers began dumping debris from buildings. Eventually the mound of rubble and muck covered two acres and reached a height of thirty-five feet, the equivalent of a three-story building.

The state ordered them to clean it up what they’ve messed, but the brothers claimed there was no place to dump it legally in Bridgeport, and they could not afford to have it hauled away. While spending more than $330,000 the previous year to have debris hauled away, they barely dented the pile. According to Geno, "The trash was never supposed to get this high but it got out of hand."

Do you know that sometimes the personal garbage in our lives gets out of control?

There are many types of garbage! There is the garbage of the destructive things that we do!