

What Does God Do with Heaven's Trash?

By Allen Webster, *House to House Heart to Heart*, Oct. 2024

Trash has become a problem for America. The average American generates four pounds of solid trash per day, for a total of 1460 pounds per year. Although Americans represent roughly five 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 some time," 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; cf. 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 again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our 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 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.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Dale Strong was severely injured in a side-by-side accident last Saturday, but through many prayers and medical care he is amazingly recovering. He moved to Baxter rehab yesterday, and will stay there about four weeks. He has a neck brace for fractures hoping they will heal on their own. He is speaking and thinking better.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hamelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.



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. 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.

(continued next week)

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
10-1	Matthew Burton	10-19	Mark and Nichole Lane
10-4	Mary Ann Reynolds	10-19	Chris and Kelly Lemberg
10-7	Tristan Goodman	10-26	Jason and Julie Schofield
10-10	Aubree Schofield (3)	Birthdays	
10-13	Vernon James (95)	10-24	Paisley Goodman (1)
10-15	Darren Crisp	10-24	Addilyn Strong (8)
10-16	John Abraham	10-26	Casey Hambelton
10-19	Debra Lane	10-30	Karin Reynolds
10-21	Amy Myers		

Melinda is serving chili, hotdogs, and her famous cinnamon rolls for our Wednesday night fellowship meal at 6 p.m. Come join us!

Date	Event	Details
Dec. 13	Kids Cookie Party	Kids decorating cookies
Dec. 22, 6:30	Christmas Play	Kids presenting play

HE WHO LAYS UP
TREASURES IN
heaven
LOOKS FORWARD TO ETERNITY.

November Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Communion & Closing Prayer

Today David Stevens
11-2 Don Luna
11-9 John Abraham
11-16 Mark Lane
11-23 David Stevens
11-30 Don Luna

Jim Kirkland
David Stevens
Don Reynolds
Tinker Langston
Titus Smith
Paul Wade

Song Leader: David Stevens; John Abraham
Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston; Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

October 26, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: **Rewards in Heaven**

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us