



Why am I carrying all this stuff with Me

I'm looking at all these e-mails, many of which I have not read nor will I; I have even forgotten the reason I signed up for them, so I just keep deleting and emptying my trash? By the next day or so they along with others are

back so I simply move on through the clutter created by them, and repeat the cycle; then one day I took the time to read and I found the way to eliminate the process by "following the instructions" and unsubscribing, and they actually stopped cluttering up my computer and stealing my time. Now I have the time to read e-mails and enjoy communicating with friends as well as keeping myself aware of things my of interests.

This made me stop and think, why did I allow all this clutter become such a distraction in the first place? Life is like this, we begin our life reaching out to bring things into our lives, thinking and believing that it will be good or help me become something I would like to be. It all began in our childhood and continues even today all to often. Somewhere along this journey many of us became overloaded with the clutter, but unlike this computer, there is no delete button; but there is a trash can full of stuff that just didn't want to disappear or go away. I've covered it up with a tarp of discontent, hid it behind a faded smile from my despair, and when all my excuses ran out, so had my strength. I found out I couldn't carry all this trash around with me, it was tiring! I met Christ and He emptied my trash can and gave me new hope and the strength to walk away from the mess I had created.

I woke up again, and I was in this new life with Christ, doing the same things over again; only this time it was "in the name of Jesus." I found myself listening to things I didn't need to hear and passing them on; first it was just e-mails and it seemed like the right thing to do I mean it was to fight the "dirt-guy". Then I began to notice not only was I reading all this stuff but each time I forwarded something, it produced more in return. I found myself reading more articles, actually developing my own thoughts and concerns about how to deal with issues I actually had little if any

influence in; but it was after all a "Christian coalition" or was it? What I woke up to, was that my words were being used up in a manner that I cried out to God earlier about; only the names were different. My time of reading God's word had dropped off and my personal worship was shrinking due to all these outside "concerns," I was sinking back into the place I had been so desperate to get out of earlier, and I didn't see it coming; how could I be so easily deceived by something I had been delivered from? Stuff is stuff and life is life, if it is in Christ; but when it is not centered on Christ; the deception of distractions will enter and we will collect stuff until our life returns like it was, only we didn't recognize the sin it was.

1 Timothy 1:19 (NLT)

"Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.

Isn't was odd how a believer I can become shipwrecked again by the same rocks of offence as I had in the beginning; but clutter will confuse even the elite. Clutter is what it is and does not represent the life of Christ to anyone so what was it doing in my life again. It was the open of doors and lack of keeping my priorities on Christ who died for me. Because He died for me I started out desiring to live only for Him but clutter distracted me and others things crept in! I found the way to dump my trash of life once and it hasn't changed! I can repent and be forgiven, restored and renewed; even my mind! God's plan for your life will not pass away, nor will it fade from view, His Spirit will renew it everyday. I thank God my computer crashed so I could restore my life to a earlier time in my walk with Christ; a time of great passion for simplicities of Truth.

If you like me have gotten or are now living in the midst of clutter pray with me:

Father, I ask You to forgive me for allowing these distractions to clutter my life, I need to be restored to that time of passion and fervor for Your presence and Your words. Forgive me and restore my heart of flesh so that my worship is no longer just a song but it is truly the passion to dwell in Your presence. Restore me and I will give you my heart afresh.

Blessings and Happy Easter, He has Risen and He is Alive! Pastor Charles

