

Waste Management

The relatively small state of New Jersey is running out of space to store its (*guess what!*)... garbage. So their trash has to be trucked to more spacious states. If there is anything humans are good at, it's wasting and making waste.

If *anyone* can afford to be wasteful, it's God. But he's not. *Not at all!* On the contrary, he's a great conservationist, recycler, preserver. And not only of nature, but also of human nature, of human life. He *cares* for his creation.

Much of the Christian life can be a waste, if it's not lived for God and from God's perspective. We squander time, money and all kinds of resources. *Big time!* We can waste situations, circumstances and experiences. We can throw away opportunities to grow in faith, in character and in spirit.

By not unquestioningly and wholeheartedly agreeing with him, we miss God's truth and God's good intentions toward us. We don't see, we don't experience God's designed kindness toward us.

What we are saying is: "God, you are not doing things the right way because you are not doing them our way." We think God is either making mistakes or he's not interested. So, do we or do we not believe God is in control? Are we convinced the Lord has a beneficial purpose for everything he permits?

But we waste more than *God's* good intentions on our behalf; we waste our own actions and reactions toward others. We waste occasions to do good to our family, to the Body of Christ and to our neighbor. We misuse incidents to bless our persecutors, to pray for our enemies, to return good for evil.

The less wasteful we are the more we resemble our gracious heavenly Father. ◇◇◇