

**Dump Your Debris
in 2023
Hebrews 12:1-2**

Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The “besetting sins” - debris, entanglements, clutter we are especially drawn to, or are weak towards

Hebrews 12:1-2



How Do We Dump Debris We Don't Need in 2023?

#1 Stop Making Excuses

- If I want to get rid of the debris/clutter, I have to stop making excuses for my failure to remove it in the first place
- I have to stop seeing myself as a “victim of my circumstance.”

- Hear me well:

Other people can hurt us and harm us, which is no secret

But no one can ruin your life without your permission

- We all make choices in life that hurt us; but the key is, how do we choose to respond to those hurts (Remember Jonah)
- The Bible teaches us that we have to be honest and accept some responsibility for our part in the problem, Isaiah 59:1-2

(Educational challenges may change your lifestyle; but don't cheat worship time because you have to study)

Learn to Admit Your Wrong

“He who covers (hides, won’t admit) his sins will not prosper (be successful).

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy (a second chance).” Proverbs 28:13

- We know that it’s hard to get people to admit when they are wrong
- Did you know that arrogance toward COVID 19 treatments cost lives? (pride always leads to destruction, Proverbs 16:18)
- This scripture teaches us that if we will admit our failures God will give us mercy (other opportunities).
- One of the reasons we fail in life is that we don’t prepare ourselves for the problems that we will face in life, Matthew 7:24-27 (Our faith prepares us for the unexpected turns of life)

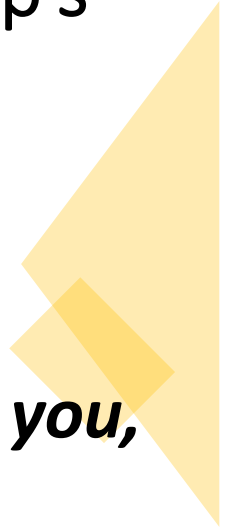
Remember the Truth in One of Our Choral Group's
Songs, Mender of a Broken Heart!

*The twist and turns of life sometimes get hard,
And the pain can tear us apart.*

*But remember, God said that, he will never forsake you,
He's a Mender of a Broken Heart.*

*Just know the pain won't last always,
This too shall pass to brighter days.*

*But remember, He's putting you back, together again,
He's a mender of a broken heart.*



#2 Take Inventory of Your Life

- Be honest with yourself and evaluate all of your experiences
- In other words, what do I have left after the disappointment? (the bad consequences/shrapnel/fragments of my mistakes)

God Uses Our Different Experiences to Shape Our Lives

- Personal Experiences - like the family you grew up in (David), the church you congregated with, the spouse you marry
- Vocational/Work experiences: Paul, Aquila and Priscilla had a close fellowship because they shared the same occupation, Acts 18:1-3; Your shared experiences can be evangelical
- Spiritual Experiences - Your local church, Bible study, quiet time can shape you
- Painful Experiences can shape us - Romans 5:3-5; Transform your pain into a purpose for God (Marshall Thomas)

As You Look At Your Debris in 2023, Ask Yourself Three Questions

#1 What have I learned about myself?

- Remember: if you don't learn from your failures, you are doomed to repeat them (learn from the consequences of your past experiences)

#2 What do I have? (assets that God can use)

Remember in Exodus chapter four when Moses was being drafted by God to lead God's people from slavery. Exodus 4:2

He said, "Lord I have no clout/assets. Israel won't listen to me! The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake (God personalized a blessing to Moses that only he could understand)

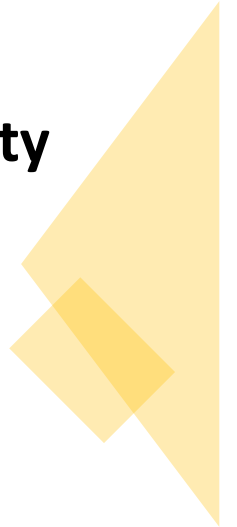
#3 Determine Who Can Help Us?

- Is there anybody you know that can be your “accountability partner”; Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron

So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

- You need friends that are not so enamored with you that they won't cross you when you are wrong
- In marriage your spouse can be your best “critic”
- Critic - One who shares the highest form of appreciation for something (music, art, literature, architecture)
- Paul wanted the Galatians to be the best Christians they could be, so he said, “Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” Galatians 4:16



#4 Trust In God to Help You Succeed This Year

- **Don't depend on yourself alone. That's why we fail**
- **We stumble and fall, but get up and say, "I'll just try harder" Jer. 10:23 says you can't succeed alone**
- **It's like banging your head against the wall over and over thinking that it will fall over this time.**
- **But that's the definition of insanity isn't it? Doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results the next time**



Observations

- **Success in the Christian life is not about trying harder, but Living Smarter. Ecclesiastes 12:1, “Consequences!”**
- **Don’t make a 16-year-old’s mistakes at 40 years of age!**
- **We must come to grips with our flaws and allow God to transform them, Romans 12:2**
- **The real person is that “inner person of the heart” that Peter speaks about in 1 Peter 3:4**
- **That’s the one that Jesus changes - He creates “Righteousness From the Inside Out”**

Won’t You Let Christ Change Your Life?

Dump Your Debris in 2023!

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 25:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

