

Taking out the rubbish begins with confession, and then counting on Jesus to get rid of it. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).



Today is garbage day. Take it out and then leave it there!

Lord, help me not to cover sin,
Those secret wrongs that lurk within;
I now confess them all to Thee;
Transparent I would always be. —D. De Haan

Confession is the key that opens the door to forgiveness

Just Do It!

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That maybe it couldn't but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.
He buckled right in, with a bit of a grin
On his face - if he worried, he hid it,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done - and he did it.
(*"The Evangelist"*, 8/1959)

Pastor:

Wayne Robilliard
17 Woodland Ave, Hazelbrook

Ph: 4758 8778.
0404 804 778

Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

www.mountainsbaptist.org.au

4wayner@tpg.com.au

Central Mountains Baptist Church

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JUST DO IT

My wife usually has to remind me to take out the rubbish on garbage days. It's not one of my favourite jobs, but I muster up the determination to get it done and then just do it. Afterward it's a nice feeling to have it out of the house, and I forget about it till the following week.

Just as we need trucks to pick up the garbage that accumulates in our homes, we need to let Jesus remove the "rubbish" that inevitably accumulates in our hearts. When we forget to take out the garbage, it's not a pretty picture. Jesus wants us to dump it regularly at the foot of the cross. In fact, He has promised to remove it and forget it.

But wait a minute! Could we be rummaging through the cans, trying to find that thing we weren't quite ready to part with? A sinful habit we don't want to give up, a fantasy we want to cling to, a revenge that we still want to ignite? Why are we wanting to hang on to the garbage?





Discipleship Series

Living in Wisdom



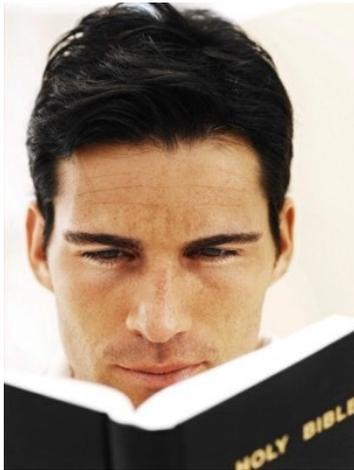
James 1 describes two steps to living wisely:

1. _____ (or just _____), verses 5, 2-3, 9-10, 12-13, 19-24

(Ephesians 4:25) "Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another."

(Psalms 34:18) "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit."

(Psalms 51:17) "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise."



2. _____ (or just keep _____),

(Matthew 26:39) "... O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

(Hebrews 12:3-4) "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. {4} You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."

(Philippians 2:8) "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18) "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. {17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, {18} while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

(Hebrews 12:1-2) "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(2 Peter 1:5-7) "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

