

Waste Is a Problem

According to *National Wildlife* magazine, each week people in the United States generate more than 4 million tons of trash. During the holiday season, which is not very far in our rear-view mirror, it is estimated that between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we throw out even more – 5 million tons per week – and a high percentage of that trash is simply wasteful.



As an example, the magazine reported, if each person in America throws away just one bite of Thanksgiving turkey, that comes out to 8.1 million pounds of edible turkey in the trash can. If each person throws away one tablespoon of stuffing, then 16.1 million pounds of edible stuffing is wasted.

And then, of course, there is all that wrapping paper. The average U.S. consumer gift-wraps 20 packages during the holidays. If each person wrapped just three of those packages with recycled wrap, the amount of paper saved would cover 45,000 football fields.

New Year parties add to the trash heap. After the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration, for instance, the New York sanitation department cleans up 42 tons of extra garbage.

Environmentalists are not the only ones bothered by the waste of valuable resources. God hates waste. He created this world, and He doesn't want His handiwork to be disrespected and made ugly by the careless attitude of its inhabitants.

But neither does God want to see valuable resources He bestows on individuals – such as abilities, time, money, spiritual gifts, compassion and vitality – lost and unused.

Our Lord commands that we bear fruit in this life according to His plan for each of us.

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required (Luke 12:48).

– Beecher Hunter