



# November 2019

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sometimes we may ask such things as “Why bother?” and “Is it worth it anymore?” Sometimes when the kids and I take the time to recycle, I wonder if it’s really worth it when the giant recycling container/dumpster is full and I have to lug it all back home and wait until it’s emptied again. Sure, after a few times of that happening I drove back to check to see if it’s not full first. Then I was thankful they posted a schedule of when the giant recycling dumpster is emptied so I could plan accordingly. But more than asking if it’s worth my time and effort to recycle, I also wondered if it’s making much of a difference at all when it seems like an unlimited amount of trash is thrown out all over the world. That image made me remember a time when I once saw some people crossing Grafton Road as I was driving and seeing them throw garbage bags into the woods or ditches. I’ve also been swimming found garbage on the shore. For part of the time I wanted to relax and enjoy myself rather than pick up trash. Then it was harder to convince myself to get back into the water when seeing certain things were washing up on the shore.

However, after looking past the challenges, I find it is worth it when I see my children making more of an effort to not waste, not throw trash on the floor or on the ground at the park or anywhere they’re not supposed to. It is worth it when we walk around Carleton and people sometimes leaving trash by our house or on our lawn and help make it not only cleaner but also safer. One neighbor was surprised to find a load of trash under their tree which they didn’t see all of because the branches were hiding it all. A part of me wants to simply say it’s human nature to make and throw away trash as conveniently as possible. Yet, I think it’s also a learned behavior.

What I am saying is that it would be easier for me to not care so much about what trash is thrown around my house, around the village, and around the country and world than to do something about it. I could “save time and energy” by not stopping my children from polluting and teaching them to throw away trash properly. I could actually not care and actually encouraging my children not to care too by throwing trash out my car window rather throwing it in the trash, and simply say that someone else will take care of it, or that nature will, or that it doesn’t really matter in the end.

Okay, I’ve spent a lot of time on recycling and littering. I shared all of that to say how what seems to be obvious and teachable sometimes is not. It’s easier to wonder what it matters what we do, why bother, and if it is really worth the effort. All of what we do does matter! From the words that come from our mouths, the thoughts we have about ourselves, others, and God, and how we treat ourselves and others.

It all matters to God. It also matters to others, near and far. Your life does make a difference. Your life as a follower of Jesus Christ allows not only for you to live fully and purposefully, but also lovingly SO THAT others will experience and draw closer to Christ. So know and remember when you wonder why you “bother” to do all you do that it’s for the love of Jesus Christ, the One who gave you everything so you could have the life you have now and the promised eternal life eternal one day. Whether you’re just old enough to read these words and understand them or whether you’re at an age where you can barely read these words with tired eyes, Christ wants you to remember everything you do is worth it when you do it for him!

In Christ’s Love,