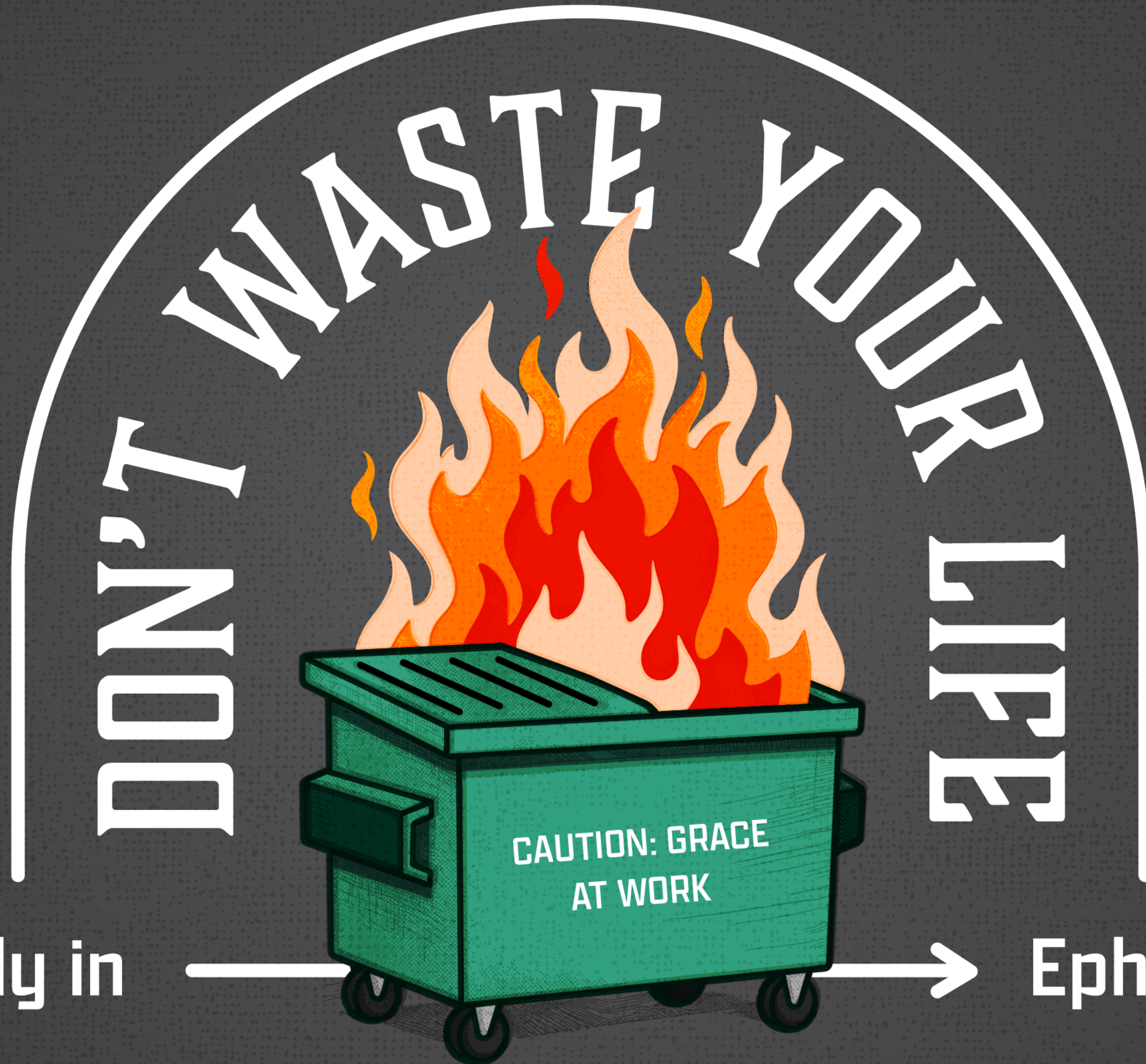




• A study in

Ephesians •



CHOSEN FOR WORSHIP

BLESSED IN CHRIST

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3)

- In Christ, you are blessed.
- God is the source ~ Christ is the means.
- Every spiritual blessing: Every benefit that heaven has to offer is ours in Christ Jesus

CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD

God's choosing sinners to become saints is based solely on the execution of His sovereign will. Before anything existed, according to the good pleasure of His will, God chose sinners for salvation in Christ.

- The word of the Lord came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1: 4-5)
- Though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls - she was told, "The older will serve the younger" (Romans 9:11-12)
- And when the gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

CHOSEN ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL

The words “*the purpose of His will*” (Ephesians 1:5) carry the idea of God’s good pleasure or good desire. His choosing is not by chance, it is according to the good pleasure of his will.

“Far from any idea of arbitrariness it has a warm and personal connotation. When God's good pleasure is mentioned, his willingness and joy in doing good are indicated.” **Marcus Barth**

CHOSEN THROUGH CHRIST

"In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:5)

God has predestined us to become His sons and daughters through the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

- God determined before time to crush Christ for sinners
- Christ who is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15)
- Christ who is the radiance of God's Glory (Hebrews 1:3)

The Blood of Christ shed on the cross is the ink with which God has signed our adoption papers.

ADOPTION PROVIDES A NEW IDENTITY

- We were once children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)
- We are new in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- The assurance of the Spirit (Romans 8:15-16)

ADOPTION PROVIDES A LOVING FATHER

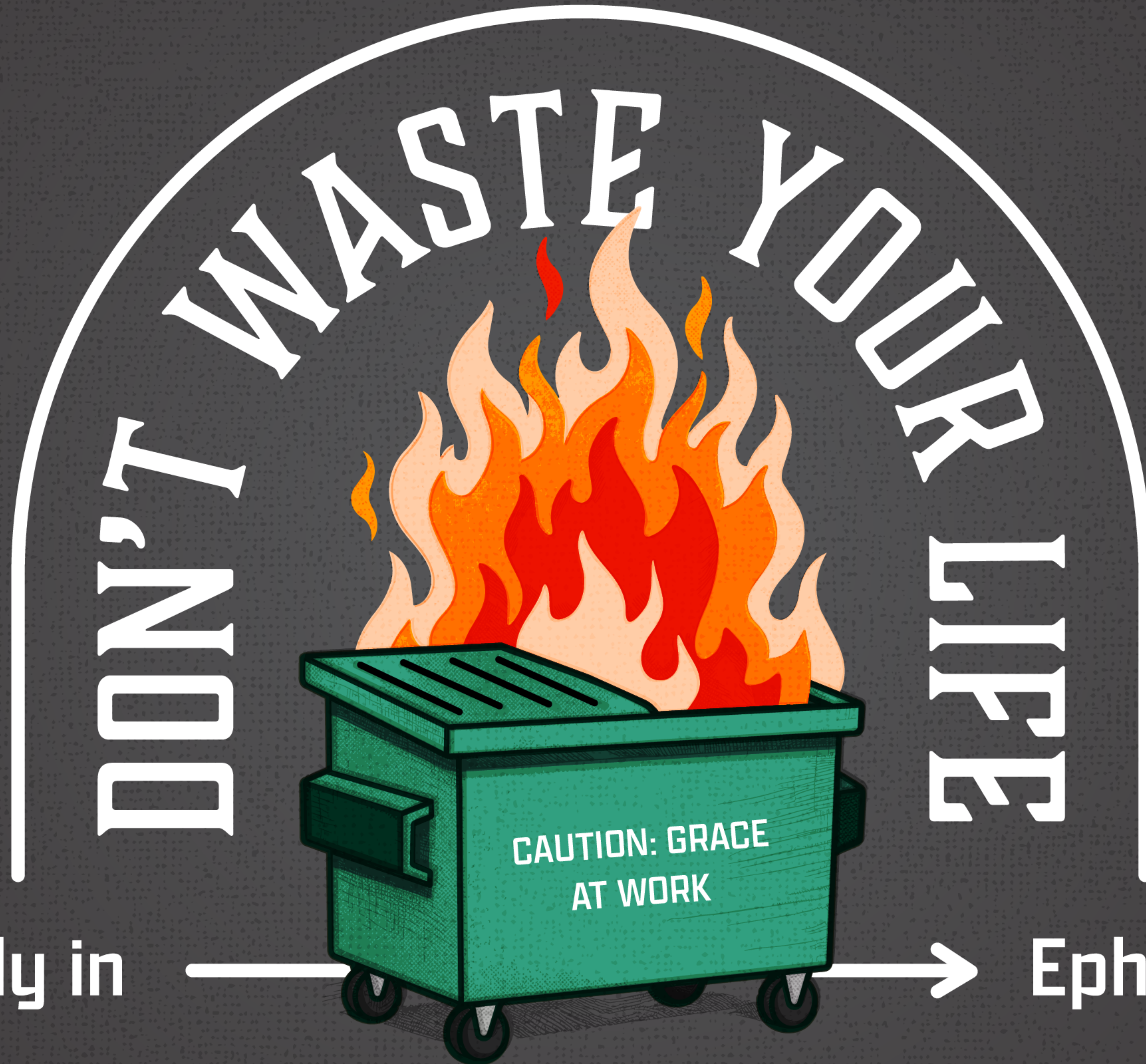
"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught and everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. Father is the Christian name for God".

(J.I. Packer)

CHOSEN TO PRAISE HIS GLORIOUS GRACE

To the praise of his glorious grace with which he has blessed us in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6)

- The primary and highest purpose of God choosing us before the foundation of the world, is that his children would praise him for the glorious grace they have received in the Beloved.
- **Worship is more than singing**
- **The song of our life should match the song of our voice**



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