

This is the Day...Wednesday

July 20, 2022

Found Toys

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)

As a child there is nothing more fun than a found toy. It is like finding a treasure and gives the whole day a new meaning and purpose. I often looked for old, discarded toys as I traveled through our neighborhood and around town. It was not that we could not afford toys. I had more than my share of stuff at my house and was never in need of anything. But a found toy is much different from a toy that Santa brings or a toy from Mom and Dad that you expect to receive on a birthday or at Christmas. A found toy has a different significance. A found toy comes out of the blue, as a great surprise. And it is usually a toy that one would have never asked for or dreamed of having. A found toy is a rare and unique gift.

On one of my trips around the neighborhood, I noticed that the man down the street was cleaning out his carport. I knew he had two children, and both had left for college, so I thought he might have some good stuff to throw out. And I was right! As I sat in the driveway across the street, I watched as the man carried stuff to the road to be discarded. There was an old bicycle frame but no tires. Several old baseball bats and a couple of flat footballs. But then I saw it. The toy I could have only dreamed of finding and he was laying it at the road right in front of me. It was an old skateboard!

Now, at this point in my life I had already learned that I was terrible at roller skating. So, I was sure that I would never be able to stand on a skateboard without killing myself. But a skateboard is different from roller skates. I could sit on the skateboard! When my friends saw me with my found toy, they all started gathering. Since I found the toy, I got to have the first ride. We went over to the hill on Church Street near my house, so we could get a good ride going down the hill. At the top of the hill, I sat on the skateboard and my friends gave me a long, fast push. I flew down the hill and was having a blast...until. The front wheels suddenly popped off of the skateboard. At that very moment I went from riding down the road to rolling and bouncing on the pavement. When it was over, I was scratched, bruised, and bleeding and I understood why that man threw away that skateboard. You have to be careful with found toys.

Ever heard the phrase, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure?” Sometimes we are guilty of taking on some trash from other people that does not turn out to be treasure. And I don’t just mean old skateboards. Sometimes we take on thoughts, beliefs, ideas, attitudes, and perspectives that other folks are throwing to the side of the road. We take them to ourselves and even take them for a ride. But we can very quickly realize that those attitudes and beliefs will only leave us beaten down and bruised.

On this day which God has given you, be careful about taking on someone else’s trash. They have left it on the side of the road for a reason.