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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes. . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

A PRAYER OF AN OLD MAN

Jehovah, the Father of us all and the creator of all that is, I am thankful today for so many things it is impossible to enumerate them. We are thankful for your loving kindness, your generosity and your patience with us all. We are grateful for your desire to save us and deliver us to that home in heaven for which we so long.

I thank Thee for the opportunity to serve you all these years by the proclamation of Your Word and that you have brought me to this time in life with a reasonable amount of health. For these and many more things I will be eternally grateful.

I pray that Thou would keep me from becoming a bitter and disappointed old man in the sunset years of my life. I want to be an encouragement to your men preparing themselves to preach. Help me encourage them to spend time with the Word that they will find the help and strength they need from Thee and will be able to help people grow in a spiritual way.

Help me to understand that I have come to the time in life when my involvement in the church is not as prominent as it once was; that I cannot do the many things I have done in the past. Let me have the wisdom and strength and grace to do what I can although there are many things I can no longer do.

Father, help me be an encouragement to the elders of the church where I attend and those I come in contact with from time to time. Theirs is a job that is difficult and thankless and they receive a lot of criticism and not much commendation. Help them have the strength stand for your principles in the face of whatever comes.

I am also grateful for the many friends and brothers and sisters who have stood by me in foul weather and fair. This life has not been a “bed of roses” but you never promised it would be. I am grateful for your standing by me in the toughest times when I was about ready to “throw in the towel.”

I am thankful that, although the body is almost worn out, the mind still functions some of the time and I can recognize friends and family and your grace through forgiveness and strength.

One thing more dear Father. Help my boys. They are good boys, industrious, honest, dependable, capable but they are a little lost right now. They are deeply involved in their work and pay little attention to you and your word. They look after their old dad in a good way. They haven't been to church services in a long, long time. I wish they could find their way back and know the strength and comfort that comes from you and you alone. With your help perhaps they can find their way back. I am deeply concerned about them.

Help me, in my remaining time on earth, to live it with grace, wisdom and courage, knowing the gift that awaits me in your care throughout eternity.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who died that I might live.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Smithson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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