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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

NOTE: I failed to include the last two paragraphs with the one I sent out last week.

(Editor's Note: Most of the time through the years I have written on subjects that had to do with the church or problems within the church. I have tried to stay away from politics and things that would take us away from spiritual matters. It seems everybody and his dog has a blog these days. I have thought about starting one but never had. So, I think I will just use this as my "blog" and write about whatever comes to mind, but most of the time will have a spiritual application. Stay tuned...)

Lessons from the farm

DRAGING THE OLD, HEAVY COTTON SACK

Most of you under fifty years of age don't know what it is to pick cotton. On the farm we had two main cash crops. One was corn and the other cotton. We kept a good deal of corn in the barn to feed the livestock and had some ground into corn meal to make cornbread. So the cotton was the main cash crop.

Each fall, not only did we pick our own cotton but hired out to pick cotton for some of our neighbors as well. There were some parts of farm labor I liked, like following a turning plow. Others I could tolerate with a little effort. I did not like picking cotton. It was back-breaking and heavy work and it also got your hands scratched and cut up from the cotton burrs.



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We had heavy canvas cotton sacks with a strap on them that went around our shoulders to pull the sack behind us. We had to bend over to pick the cotton or “walk” on our knees and one was about as painful as the other. I remember seeing some older men and women I just knew had picked cotton all their lives because they were stooped over so much. If a person chose to pick cotton on their knees, many times calluses were worn on the knees by the time the season was over.

As a person began picking a row of cotton the sack was light, but it got heavier and heavier as time went on. To go to the wagon and empty the sack when it began to get heavy was a waste of time and effort. Farmers wanted pickers to pick as much cotton as they could so most would pick until the sack became full and it was extremely hard to drag.

Dealing with sin is sort of like picking cotton. When one commits his first sin, while the conscience is stricken considerably, the weight of it is rather light after a while. But the longer one goes without that sin being forgiven, the heavier the load of it gets. One sin is piled upon another until it is rather difficult to drag all that sin. It wears a person out spiritually, mentally and physically as well.

Sin can become so much a part of our lives that it can be impossible for us to get out. This is particularly true for Christians who do not “keep the faith.” The Hebrew writer said, “[For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.](#)” (Hebrews 6:4-6)

When that cotton sack gets full and heavy, the picker takes it to the wagon, weighs it and empties the sack. As he goes back to the field he doesn't have the heavy sack but a light and empty one. When a Christian's sins weigh heavy on him, he can repent and ask forgiveness and his sins and the weight of them will be taken away. In much the same way the cotton picker goes back to work with a light and empty sack, the Christian continues his life much relieved and light hearted because the guilt of the sins have been taken away.

When the Christian repents and asks forgiveness, he is relieved of the weight of those sins. If he just keeps on sinning the weight of those sins keep piling up and he is dragging on with difficulty like dragging a full cotton sack. So be careful and get those sins forgiven as soon as possible after committing them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Amthuser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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