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PRESENTS

## *Frankly Speaking Notes . . .*

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Ed Smithson, Editor

### **FIRST, REMOVE THE BAD**

Three weeks ago I had a water problem in my bathroom. A water line broke in the middle of the night and flooded the bathroom with about an inch of water. While it took some time to get an adjuster, I finally did and so it was time for repairs. Just this week I have a man working on it.

When he started, he took out the flooring, strips of tile to get to the floor underneath to see what the damage was. He found that I had a leak, perhaps for some time, in the sub floor and it ruined it so it had to be removed before the repairs could begin. Everyone who knows anything about construction knows that you cannot build anything solid on a rotten foundation, in this case the sub floor.

Our spiritual lives are like that. A lot of folks think all they have to do to be pleasing to God is just start living a good life. Not so! Why do you suppose on Pentecost in Acts 2, Peter told those people to “[repent and be baptized, for the remission of sins?](#)” (v. 38) Because they had to get rid of the rubbish in order to build something solid. All through the book of Acts we see people are told to “be baptized” because that is the way to get rid of sins.

It is only then that one can begin to build something pure and right. Paul wrote “[Put on therefore, as God’s elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness.](#)” (Colossians 3:12-14)

If I had a good floor put on top of the rotten floor, it would not be long until I would be having trouble again. It is the same in the spiritual world. Unless

one gets rid of the sins, the rubbish, he has nothing solid on which to build and it will not last. It will not get him to heaven.

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

Ed Smithson

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