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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

Published as time and opportunity permit, usually a few times a week.

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Ed Smithson, Editor

POOR ME

I do my share of complaining. Yes indeed! And believe me, I am not getting into politics, but it seems to me we have raised a nation of whiners. Every time I pick up the paper or turn on the TV news, someone is complaining that they are being mistreated, left out, acted against and on and on it goes.

Our new congress is trying to cut 100 Billion dollars (yes that is with a B, and I can't even think that high) from our vast budget in this country. For so long we have been spending, spending, spending until it has to stop. Now cutting back causes great pain. I know. I have been there personally more times than once. But all of a sudden we have people whining about not being able to get a job, not being able to do things they have always done and telling us that the government CAN FIND NEW SOURCES of revenue. I don't know where they think government money comes from.

Our state, the state of Texas is also in a financial crunch and on every turn people are having to cut back. It appears people in our schools are complaining the loudest as if education were a sacred cow. I can guarantee I can go into any school district in the country and cut their budgets in half by cutting out the non-necessities. So much for that!

But I have only mentioned that to mention this: we have those same people in our churches as well. As early as 40 years ago I had a couple tell me that I was under obligation to "see to their needs" because the scriptures tell me to. They quoted Galatians 6:2, "[Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.](#)" It seems they never once thought that the scripture also applied to them, and whose burden were they bearing?

The world of psychology and big government has so crippled this country that there is no longer the spirit of independence. The psychological attitude is "*something is wrong with everyone and we are the only ones who can help, and you need help and someone else will pay for it.*"

So these days we have people in the church who feel the same way. I know a lot of people disagree with me but it has never stopped me before. **I believe the mission of the church is to save souls and house them because the Lord adds those souls to the church when they are saved.** I am not saying no one is interested in saving souls, far from it. But the HOW of saving them it seems to me, has changed a good deal through the years.

My entire life I have believed in the great commission, **“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.”** (Mark 16:15–16) I have always thought that meant to “preach the gospel,” which Paul says in Romans 1:16 **“it is the power of God unto salvation...”**

You see, the gospel, if used correctly is going to cure our ills. Most folks are sick because of sin. Sin will take its toll if not dealt with properly. Dealing with sin is not listening and encouraging people to talk about their troubles. I believe with all my heart that in this book we call the Bible is the answer to every problem mankind can run up against. The reason I believe that is because of several passages that say so.

Look at these: **“Thy word have I laid up in my heart, That I might not sin against thee.”** (Psalm 119:11) **“Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”** (Psalm 119:9) **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path.”** (Psalm 119:105) **“And that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.”** (2 Timothy 3:15-17) and there are many more.

One of my favorite passages and one I have used in many situations because it is powerful and gives such comfort is Philippians 4:19 **“And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”**

I know there is a lot of hurt in this world and most of that hurt has come either from sin or from the normal processes of life. But what happened to independence? What happened to the “boot straps?” What happened to

“with the help of God, I shall overcome?” In Galatians 6 the scriptures also says, “[for each man shall bear his own burden.](#)” (verse 5)

If we would quit whining and let the Word of God do its work, we would all be a lot healthier and have a lot more time to seek out those who are really lost and give them the gospel.

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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February 12, 2011