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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

“RESTORING STAINED GLASS WINDOWS”

For some reason of which I am not actually sure at present, a lot of churches have a love affair with “stained glass windows.” I know of a church that was recently built, quite a nice edifice, and for some reason they thought the crowning touch would be “stained glass windows” and they were installed, at a cost I might add, of some \$20,000.

A while back there was a piece in The Press-Enterprise of Riverside, Ca., about a church in Atlanta, Ga. The church is an old one and it looked like they were headed for the “ruins” when they hired a new young preacher with new ideas. Things began to turn around for the church and now, instead of having a “handful” at morning worship on Sunday, they are having quite a crowd. I need not go into the efforts that were put forth to bring this about.

The last paragraph said the church was still struggling. This years budget is only a mere 1.2 million dollars and the first thing they want to do is restore their “stained glass windows.”

Now that struck me as quite odd. Although it is a denominational church, I’m afraid the attitude also exists among our brethren as well.

I have nothing against keeping church property up and in good repair, as many of you know. But there is something about the idea of restoring a non-necessity when our greatest concern should be the restoration of the gospel and the truth. “Stained glass windows” might be fine, but they’re only, (excuse the pun) window dressing. “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

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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