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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

THE BED YOU MADE

From time to time I hear people complaining about their “lot in life.” Sometimes it is the job they are working at and have been for many years. At other times it is a spouse with whom things haven’t been going well for a long time. Then there are parents who sometimes complain bitterly that their children do not care about them or pay them little attention.

Remember the movie “CHRISTMAS CAROL?” It has been made and remade many times though the years and sometimes even with different titles. I like the one that was made in the early 50. I guess it was the first time I ever saw it and the others are just poor substitutes.

Fairly early in the movie Scroog’s old partner, Marley, who has passed away, appears to Ebenezer in a dream as a ghost. Scrooge wants to know why all the chains and stuff he is wearing. Marley replies that in eternity “we wear the chains we forged in life.”

That is so absolutely true. Once we cross from life into death there is absolutely nothing we can change. If our lives have not been what they should have been or what we would have liked, that is the way it is going to be for eternity. In addition those who have done wrong in life and not received forgiveness from God will face their misdeeds in judgment. **“So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”** (Romans 14:12)

No, this is not an article on the judgment.

My mother used to say, “you made your bed, so you have to lie in it.” I think she was trying to teach us responsibility and the idea that we had to live with the consequences of our actions. There are a lot of folks that do

not seem to understand and mama felt like it was her duty to teach her children that principle.

Our society has not well learned the lesson of the consequences of our actions. People commit all kinds of sin and crime and then wonder what happened when they begin to suffer.

“Be sure your sins will find you out” is not “chimney corner scripture.” (Numbers 32:23) that principle has not changed through the years. There are always consequences to our actions. While a person may receive forgiveness from God, for wrongs committed, it does not eliminate the consequences. I remember an old preacher using the illustration about driving a nail in a board. You can pull the nail out, to be sure, but the hole where it was is still there.

So when you are thinking you are being slighted, neglected or ignored, think back. Perhaps you acted that way toward others in the past. If your children care nothing about you, perhaps you didn't care enough about them during their up bringing. Now, you must make the best of it although you cannot take it back.

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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