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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

THE CHANGING TIMES

My good friend Roy H. Lanier, Jr. sent me a “forward” (you know what that is) the other day about things we haven’t heard in a long time. It brought back a lot of memories, like soaking your foot in kerosene, (we called it ‘coal oil’) after stepping on a rusty nail. Or, mother saying, “You use that word again and I will wash your mouth out with soap.” (I can still taste the Lifebuoy.)

Then in the local paper today I saw a headline, “Consider the cost when you are planning on a pet.” What was that? Another thing that is quite different today.

Also there was a news report Sunday night about officials breaking up a chicken-fighting (I think they call it Cock Fighting) ring in one of our Texas counties where they found 1400 chickens and confiscated them. The SPCA spokesperson was interviewed and she was talking about those chickens like they were human beings. Go figure!

I was brought up on a farm, and it was a poor farm, but we didn’t think about the cost of having pets. We had a bunch of dogs, eight or ten at a time. What those dogs ate was what they could catch hunting and the scraps that mama threw out. And they did not come into the house. One of the sayings in that “forward” piece was, “The house is no place for a dog,” and my mama believed that strongly. After all, they are animals.

Reading all that stuff got me to thinking that perhaps the more liberal attitudes and thinking about things like that might be transferred to other things as well.

There is an apparent attitude of some today that “whatever will get results is acceptable” in almost everything and that includes the church. For instance: “We are losing our young people so we have to do something, almost anything, to stop the loss.” So we start having “youth gatherings” and make them a special project. Then because we can’t seem to find people willing to give their time and energy to such an effort, we decide we should hire a “Youth Director.” After all the money and effort and ‘youth directors’ and parties and entertainment, the fact is we are still losing our youth at the same rate we were before. And where are the parents? The Bible tells us “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Now if parents aren’t doing the job, like some argue, why not teach the parents to do their job. I will guarantee you one thing, parents are ten times more effective with their own children than a youth director.

Then there are those that see some denominational church that uses some method to get people to attend their services and think, “we could do that too.” Most of the time they do not realize that those churches do not have the biblical restrictions we do and for the most part, they are “entertaining” their folks. Our mission is quiet different. We are obligated to preach the gospel, which is able to save the soul. (Mark 15:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:16)

Besides, you cannot use one hook to get them in and use another on them when they get there. In other words, you can’t tell them you are going to entertain them and then switch to preaching the gospel when you get them in. They won’t stand for it and it is deceptive anyway.

The problem seems to be that some do not realize there are things that do not change. God’s word does not change “For I, Jehovah, **change not;**” (Malachi 3:6) “My son, fear thou Jehovah and the king; And company not with them that are given to **change:**” (Proverbs 24:21) “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words **shall not pass away.**” (Matthew 24:35)

Reading about the old times and seeing how things have changed is one thing. Those things have nothing to do with our salvation. However, when

it comes to God's Word and His message, it is entirely different. If we are to be approved by Him, we must stay with "what is written."

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

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