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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking . . .

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THINGS WE DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT

Have you ever noticed there are several things that we don't discuss easily?

Dependence! For the most part, we are an independent bunch. In fact even with those who always want others to do for them, when it comes to actual necessity, that is when they can do nothing else, they do not like being dependent. It has crossed my mind quite a bit in recent years. I am still able to care for my self fairly well, and I like it that way. I have known several people through the years who could not care for themselves and wondered how they handled it. When you cannot do otherwise, I suppose you just have to buckle down and accept it.

But we don't like to talk about that. Most of us have been reared with the independent attitude and we don't like to think of it any other way. Perhaps, by the grace of God, we will not have to deal with that.

Family problems! I am not talking about the normal ups and downs that many families have. Everyone is going to have that and we talk about those things readily because they are normal things. I am thinking about real problems, like a child or family member with an incurable disease. Or, a child that has become addicted to some kind of drug and can't seem to kick the habit. Perhaps they have wound up in a rehab center, one or more times. Or maybe it is a child that had a promising marriage that is now on the rocks for one reason or another. The list could almost be endless.

Now there are some folks that readily talk about anything, and that includes problems in the family. Those are not the ones I am thinking about. I mean those who have been brought up to believe there are some things that are private and not for public consumption. It seems like there are fewer and fewer of them these days. Could be that we have been sold a bill of good by the psychological community that we should “talk about these things.” I admit that I have rarely understood that concept. Perhaps some people do feel better when they talk about such problems but seldom does it solve them or ease the pain of them. I believe there are some things that are private, and should be kept that way. Of course it is up to the individual to determine which.

Death! Of all the things in the world we do not discuss, perhaps this is the greatest. It could very well be that we like this life so well and don't want to leave it that we don't want to discuss our exit. Perhaps it is because there is so little to know (and we like to know everything) about death, the process and the existence afterward. Any person that knows anything about life knows about death. No one has been exempt from the loss of those who are close or loved ones. A Bible-believing person absolutely knows because the Bible says, “...it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment;” (Hebrews 9:27) So death is coming to each one who lives, sooner or later.

It is my judgment that we don't talk about it because we don't want to go (even sometimes by those who are prepared) and because we don't know much about the process. In the providence of God, He gives us what we need to live and to die. Paul wrote to the Philippians, “**And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**” (Philippians 4:19) That has always been a favorite passage to me because it shows His care for us on this earth.

There are a lot of things we know little about. We certainly don't know what will happen to us tomorrow but generally, we don't refuse to talk about it because we don't know. Besides, if we knew what was going to happen, it would probably scare us to death.

What it really boils down to is that it is our decision as to what we talk about and what will make us comfortable. I knew a person once that had a serious medical condition and did not talk about it unless he was asked specifically. Then he had very little to say, just the facts. One day a friend

chastised him for his reluctance. The reasoning was that if he talked about it he would feel better and more people would be praying for him. While that argument might be somewhat true, it is still up to the individual to make the decision as to what is discussed.

OUR MEMORY! This is the older set I am talking about now. Oh, we admit we have a problem with memory from time to time. It amuses me somewhat when I am talking to someone the age of my children and mention memory and they tell me what a problem they are having. Been there and done that. While we mention it in passing, we just don't go into details.

Just like this morning. I had used my last check in the packet for my contribution check Sunday. I went to get another bundle and when I got to where I keep them, they were not there. I looked all through the boxes of "copies" I have kept through the years. No new checks! I came back into the kitchen counter where I do my check writing most of the time and still no new checks. Fifteen minutes later I went back to the study to my desk. What do you know? Those checks were sitting there in plain sight on my desk. Now go figure! Don't laugh too loudly. You have done the same thing at one time or another. We don't mention those moments much.

After all is said and done, it depends on the individual. If he is uncomfortable talking about some of these things so be it. It is certainly not a deciding factor of where he will spend eternity, and after all, shouldn't that factor have something to do with all our decisions?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Amithora", with a decorative flourish underneath.

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