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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

“WAITING TO EXIT”

Some years ago I visited a member of the church in a “nursing home” (I don’t think they call them that anymore.) As I walked into his room I asked the usual question, “How are you doing?” I have since learned not to ask that as often because a lot of people will tell you. He looked up at me and had a little twinkle in his eye and a slight smile and said, “Just waiting to exit.”

Perhaps he was thinking about like the apostle Paul when he said, “[the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith:](#)” (2 Timothy 4:7)

I knew what he meant. He was quite elderly and past doing anything productive any longer. Another friend of mine who lived to 92 told me upon every visit, “I don’t know why the Lord just don’t let me go.” I reminded him the Lord had his own timetable.

I am learning more all the time how difficult it is for people who have been active all their lives to be brought to the point where there is little they can do, mentally or physically. Time takes it toll on both, you know.

As we come into advanced years we sometimes are more prone to understand what the old man was talking about. The energy is gone and much of the mental capacity. What is left but to pass the time and await the inevitable end. Those who are Christians have their rewards to look forward to but for all of us, there are times when it is just the waiting.

Our society understands little of biblical appreciation for the aged. “[Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man...](#)”

(Leviticus 19:32) “The **hoary head** is a crown of glory; It shall be found in the way of righteousness.” (Proverbs 16:31)

In a sense, we are all in pretty much the same place of my elderly friend, regardless of our age. What the old song says, “this world is not our home. We are all just passing through,” is real. We are all marching our way to the door of death. Our eternity will not be spent here.

Peter said, “Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul;” (1 Peter 2:11)

So, in a sense, we are all “just waiting to exit.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Amithura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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