

The Simple Life

About the turn of the century Pastor Wagner a Frenchman, wrote "The Simple Life" In clear and simple language some of the attributes of a simple well-ordered life were set forth. It came into the hands of one who occupied a pedestal of power and influence in our national life, Theodore Roosevelt the centennial of whose birth we observe this year. President Roosevelt warmly commended the Frenchman's message to his own people.

No age needed that message more than ours. No age ever had such an abundance of gadgets — gadgets to entertain us to relieve us from the pain of labor, to add our leisure and provide for our every comfort.

But has this been achieved?

Men work harder and longer hours so that at some future time they may enjoy life. If and when this day arrives, we find that it has come by another route.

The term "breadwinner" is out of date. It came into use some years ago when the labor of the husband alone sufficed to meet family needs.

This "gadget age" has so skyrocketed our wants that to satisfy them, the home-maker now is also a factory worker, a saleslady or an office girl. We are no longer content to meet material needs. We must at all costs satisfy artificially induced wants. It means more and more things.

Few things in life are more pathetic than seeing human beings created in the moral image of their Creator, with great capacity for enjoyment of life at the full, cast this aside and enslave themselves on the hopeless treadmill of trying to satisfy their artificially stimulated wants.

The quest for material things, when permitted first place in life fills it with anxiety and disquietude. Should we wonder at this?

Centuries ago one who knew life as no man know it said that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses.

The eternal truth couched in these words must have been in the mind of Phillips Brooks when he wrote:

Encompass us about.

"A thousand complexities

A great man's path is strewn with things

He's leane d to do without"

When people integrate their lives about the highest values, the simple life follows naturally and unconsciously. Their highest pleasure is derived from duties near at hand and freely done, from efforts to lighten the load of others and add to their measure of life. They find themselves encompassed about with a multitude of stimulating interests that constantly challenge their wonder, admiration, and frequently their solicitude for they see much injustice and wrong about them. Such are never lonely for they are never alone. They have no dread of being in the minority. There are always those of kindred spirit whose stimulating companionship sustains and encourages. They are never envious. They have learned long since that it is not the model of the car, nor the size or location of the house but the furnishings of the mind that add meaning and worthwhileness to life.

Rarely has a great book, a great poem, a great painting, a great musical composition or hymn or a great idea come from the mind of people who have found life easy or whose overmastering ambition was to accumulate things — material goods.

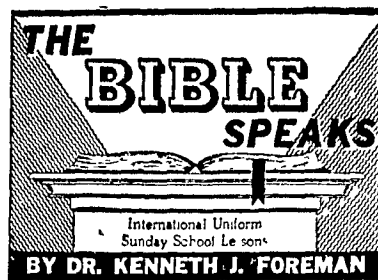
We may soon forget the man who made the better gadget, whatever its nature or value, but we cannot forget those who have added to our understanding, appreciation and possession of life.

These are they who exemplify the simple life, though they know it not. They merely give place to the highest values, respond to common duties close at hand and pleasures of enduring quality follow.

For them pleasure is never won at the price of another's displeasure, then gain never means another's loss.

Like pleasure the simple life eludes us when it is sought as an end in itself. It comes spontaneously and naturally to those who live unselfishly and creatively, merely giving first place to life's enduring values.

— The Farmers Exchange



Bible Material: Luke 2 1-40
Devotional Reading: Hebrews 1 1-9.

The World's Hope

Lesson for October 12, 1958

IS THERE hope for the world? Is there hope for me? All human beings ask that question one way or another. For all citizens of this planet, with very few exceptions, can see that this world is not as it ought to be. The more unselfish, the more public-minded, the more sensitive to the needs of human beings a person is, the more deeply he will feel the woes of the world. All persons not smothered in the selfish enjoyment of their own private paradise (if they can afford one) will agree that this world sorely needs hope.



Dr. Foreman

Prisoners of Hope

But is there hope? Here opinions differ. Some of those who are most keenly certain that the world is in a bad way, are sadly convinced that it will not grow better—it can't. The ancient Greeks, and many other races besides, thought of history as going around in circles. The world would go downhill and up by turns, around and around the wheel of fate. No disaster, and no improvement, would ever be permanent.

But the Jews were a peculiar people. They were peculiar among other things for their hope. Alone among the ancient peoples of the world, the Hebrews thought of history not as a circle but as a straight line, an arrow with a point, aimed and going somewhere. If ancient men thought of a Golden Age, they placed it in the far past. The Jews dreamed of a Golden Age, too, but theirs was never in the past.

This hope, as centuries went on, became centered in one Deliverer to come. They called him by various names: Messiah, Son of David, God's Chosen One, the Rescuer or Savior. It is clear from the stories Luke tells that even very old people like Anna and Simeon lived in hope that they might see the coming of the New Age. Somehow

when they saw the baby Jesus they felt sure that the great Hope was now becoming real, at last. Imprisoned in circumstances they might have been; but always as "prisoners of hope."

Hope Deferred


The sad thing was that the great majority of the Hebrew people, when the long-awaited Messiah really came, could not recognize him. Jesus the carpenter, Jesus the radical teacher, Jesus the friend of sinners, did not fit the patterns and the formulas by which they had described the Coming One. As they would have said, "He does not fulfill the Prophecies." Nevertheless, some did see that he fulfilled the deeper meaning of the ancient prophets' hopes. And so by degrees the number of believers in the Messiah (or Christ, which means just the same thing) grew and grew. Most of the Jewish people were left with a sense of hope deferred. And indeed many Christians were likewise disappointed. For it appears to have been the expectation of the early Christians that Christ's absence in heaven was only temporary, that is to say for a very short time, a few days, weeks, months, years perhaps. Every one hoped and most of them expected to live to see Jesus bursting through the blue sky, riding on a cloud, coming to be King of the World. But Jesus did not come that way. Even in our time some Christians expect to outlive the world's time.

Hope Abides

Nevertheless, and despite all the disappointments and misunderstandings, the hope lives on. Most Christians no longer expect to see Jesus coming on a space-ship. But all Christians do live by hope. That Christ will reign is a hope and a faith that will not down. That in the long run his cause will conquer, that "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ," this the church believes. We have to be modest and humble, or we should be so, about the "how" of hope's fulfillment. For we remember how mistaken the Jews of Jesus' time were, in their interpretation of prophecy, and we know how many Christian interpretations have been smashed by history's matter-of-factness. But we shall not be dashed. We believe that God is not going to be defeated, we believe that against Christ and his church even the gates of hell shall not prevail.

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THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson

CHOOSING A CONGRESS

Washington this week is watched with more than usual interest by the congressional election campaigns that are just now beginning to get into full swing across the country.

Is this as some of the experts predict to be a Democratic Year? Or can the Republicans as others think regain a majority in the 86th Congress which convenes next January?

There are 34 senatorial elections, two from Alaska for the first time, and 436 congressional elections, including one in Alaska in which election campaigns are being waged.

When the 85th Congress adjourned last month there were 49 Democrats and 47 Republicans in the Senate. The House was divided 233 Democrats, 200 Republicans and 13 Independents.

So far, the news has been good for the Democrats. In 40 representatives either have been elected or are expected to be elected to the party.

In 15 of the 34 senatorial elections, the Democrats have won. In 19 of the 436 congressional elections, the Democrats have won. In 10 of the 100 House seats, the Democrats have won.

The "Free World" has been told that the goal of communism is the annihilation of atomic and hydrogen bombs as weapons which could be used to destroy civilization.

The peaceful use of atomic energy, on the other hand, offers unreamed-of opportunities for all of mankind.

National issues which are emphasized include Federal spending and the national debt. Congress appropriated a peace-time record of almost \$80 billion and as a result we will go another \$8 billion deeper into debt this fiscal year.

Integration. One of the thorniest issues is that of school integration. The Supreme Court itself is an issue. Has it exceeded its constitutional authority as the Judicial Branch of government and encroached on the Legislative authority? Congress by a vote of 40 to 41 has passed a bill to curtail the jurisdiction of the Court.

Legislation to weaken restrictions of labor unions failed by only a few votes. Candidates will want to know how voters feel about the tough problem of curbing labor union activities, and especially those of Teamsters James Hoffa.

In the rural areas farm legislation will be a big issue. Congress has passed a controversial farm bill before adjourning but it has aroused as many critics as defenders.

The election campaign is our only way in a democracy of determining the decision of the American people on the important issues which affect them.

Lancaster Farming

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SAVE A HAND

Corn chokers aren't choosy. They are designed to mangle fields at high speed. Keep your hands OUT!

Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO MAKE STATE FARM SHOW ENTRIES -- The 1959 Pennsylvania State Farm Show will be held the week of January 12th. Livestock entry deadline is November 17th. Various entry blanks and Premium Lists available from the Farm Show Building at Harrisburg or from this Extension Office.

TO SOW WINTER WHEAT — From the 10th to the 20th of October is the recommended time to seed winter wheat here in southeastern Pennsylvania. This is ample time for normal growth and should be late enough to avoid Hessian Fly infection.

TO MAKE SILAGE FROM FROSTED CROPS — Some crops of late corn, sorghums and soybeans, and perhaps other forage crops were frozen during the past week, this means that the crop will soon dry and div up. Good silage may still be made from these crops if ensiled soon and perhaps some water added at the blower in order to obtain good packing.

TO BEWARE OF COLD WATER — Dairymen are cautioned about the danger of permitting producing cows to sleep out when the weather is cold and the ground at lower temperatures. The chilling of udders may be the cause of mastitis and other udder-mammary system problems.

TO SPRAY WINTERCRESS — One of the more common weeds in hay crops in recent years is wintercress. This weed is often mistaken for wild mustard because it belongs to the mustard family. The infection seems to be increasing throughout the county. Control may be attained by spraying during mid or late October with one pint of MCP in 7 gallons of water per acre. Spray soon and not next winter or spring.