

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - Let's Look At Renting Farm Machinery

We heard about a fellow the other day standing with one foot in a bucket of ice and the other in the fire. In theory, this fellow was supposed to average out just about comfortable.

That is the trouble with averages. They don't tell the whole story.

Did you ever stop to consider how much it costs per hour of use for you to own a corn planter? Most farmers store that piece of machinery for about 360 days and use it less than one week. Corn planters are only one example. Many pieces of machinery stand idle for long periods of time so that they will be on hand for a relatively short period of time when they are needed.

If the cost of seldom-used items of equipment is spread out over the 365 days of a year, the average daily cost is pretty comfortable. But if you consider the cold fact of depreciation costs while the machinery stands idle, or the hot fact that some machinery costs several hundred dollars a day, per day of use, there is very little comfort to the averaging.

While we are averaging, let us point out some other items of interest. The average cost of machinery per worker in agriculture rose from \$220 in 1940 to \$2,000 in 1960, according to the federal-state crop reporting service. Indications point to even more spectacular rises in the average cost of machinery in the next 20 years.

Farmers are always looking for ways to reduce the cost of the expensive machines needed to perform the complicated chores on the modern farm.

Up to the present time, one of the most common means of hedging on the high cost of owning machinery has been to have the special work done by a custom operator. This method has had considerable success in spreading the cost of machinery over a larger number of acres or a larger number of days.

Many farmers have tried to overcome the high cost of machinery per acre by purchasing special equipment on a cooperative basis with one or more neighbors. This method takes

many forms, from outright cooperative purchasing on the amount of estimated use of each of the purchasers to swapping of equipment between neighbors. This method has quite obvious drawbacks as well as several advantages, and such arrangements have met with both success and failure.

Some farmers have tried swapping work with neighbors. For example, one farmer who owns a combine may harvest wheat for his neighbor who has a hay baler. The farmer with the baler will return work for work, with any differences in acreage or hours being compensated at the going rate for custom work.

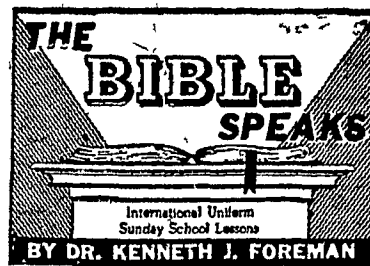
Now comes an idea that is new to us. A pamphlet from the Agriculture Economics Department of the Pennsylvania State University suggests, "Let's Consider Renting Farm Equipment".

The National Retail Farm Equipment Association has gone so far as to work out a formula for dealers who are interested in renting equipment to their customers. For purposes of renting, the value of a machine is its new, delivered price, according to the NRF-EA formula. The suggested formula is one per cent of the new delivered retail price of the equipment for a 10 hour day—five per cent on the same basis for a week—15 per cent per month, 25 per cent for two months and 33 1/3 per cent for three months.

Under the plan, the farmer would be responsible for picking up and returning the equipment and furnishing an operator, fuel and supplies. With the exception of picking up and returning the equipment, the farmer would be responsible for these other costs whether he rented or owned the machinery. In addition he would have repair costs, depreciation and interest on investment on the machinery he owns.

At present the practice of renting machinery is not widespread, but as farmers and machinery dealers become aware of the possible savings to farmers and profits to dealers, the practice may gain in favor.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



Bible Material: Job 23, 12-23; Proverbs 1:1-7, Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14, James 1:1-5  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 90 1-12.

### God's Answer

Lesson for April 9, 1961

LIFE IS made of innumerable small decisions. Even in childhood and in second childhood, something has to be decided every day. We sometimes say that the Bible has the answers, or the Christ is THE Answer. This is true for the great life-changing decisions. But there are life-shaping as well as life-changing choices to be made. Wisdom is needed for the everyday

Dr. Foreman

small problems just as truly as for the great once-in-a-lifetime crises. Can the Bible help us here?

#### Dead End Roads

The highway department has two kinds of signs. One is the kind that says "Louisville 50 miles" or "Through Traffic Keep Right." Such signs tell you exactly what to do, or to expect. The other kind of sign is the one that reads "Dead End Road." It doesn't tell you much about the road, or how far it is to anywhere. It only tells you that if you try that road you will not get anywhere. Now the Bible puts up signs of both kinds.

Take the question of wisdom, for example. There are certain books in the Old Testament called "Wisdom Literature," because they are crammed with directions on how to be wise. But a great part of the wisdom literature (Job, the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, some of the Psalms) is not so much concerned with How to be Wise, as it is with How Not to Be a Fool. To put it another way, the Wisdom Literature puts up some Dead-End-Road signs for those who wish to be wise.

One of these blind alleys is Money and another is Nature. Our chapter in Job suggests these. In a poem of moving beauty, the author of Job speaks of how hard it

is to find wisdom. It "cannot be gotten for gold,"—that is, you walk into a store and buy anything in it if you've money enough, but wisdom is never to be seen with a price-tag on it. It is also suggested here that nature does not have the answers for man's needs. Doing what comes naturally is a sure way to get into trouble.

#### Not In Rebellion

In every generation the foolish notion comes to life again. The same notion that (in the Genesis story) occurred to the first people in the world: that if we were to be wise we must kick over the traces, get out of the harness, to speak, break the rules, throw the Ten Commandments into the fire and live by some "higher law." The roads of history are haunted by ghosts of such rebellion. People who do this (and we all do it some time or other) really do it to themselves as the sufficient source of wisdom. They may admit this, but it's true.

#### The Fear Of The Lord

Fearing God, as the Bible uses this expression, does not mean being afraid of him. There is no wisdom in terror. Fearing God means reverencing him. The fear of the Lord is said many times to be the beginning of wisdom, and to say Lesson 1, the foundation of everything else. This does not mean that a God-fearing man, because he worships God, and honors him, will thereby acquire wisdom. Fearing God does not teach a man how to ride a bicycle nor mend a tractor nor cure a fever nor to select a school for his children. But the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all the same. This means first of all that God's will is always best and so far as it is made known to us it is utterly foolish to pay God no attention. The fear of the Lord means, further, something that saves us from fearing men, bowing to something, or some one, unless we are that most foolish figure of all, the self-idolizer, bowing to public opinion, or to the So-and-So thinks, or what we hear is required of us to be respectful. We bow to the idol called "Everybody Does It," as if a Gallup poll could find out what Right is in a situation. The fear of the Lord means that we keep remembering all our days, that the last judgment and the present judgment and the only judgment that matters, is God's, not man's.

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## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson The 47c Dollar

The United States Department of Labor reports that a dollar bill today is worth only 47 cents, in terms of what it would buy just prior to World War II.

The Department's index of prices of goods and services used by a typical American family shows a steady trend toward more and more inflation. Or, to put it another way the value of the dollar is becoming less and less all the time.

President Kennedy announced that government spending in the 1962 fiscal year, starting next July 1, will ex-

ceed income by more than a billion dollars. This, coupled with a compulsory increase in minimum wages, is like fighting fire with gasoline.

For more than 20 years we have been living by a false set of standards; we've had more and more dollars, higher incomes and larger profits and have called that prosperity.

**Wages Gain Most**  
We should not measure prosperity in terms of dollars alone, but in terms of what those dollars will buy. Some have increased their dollar income faster than prices have gone up. They have prospered, temporarily. Others have not increased their income as rapidly as prices have increased. They have been hurt by inflation.

Older people who live on a fixed dollar income from investments in insurance, who live on pensions, or on retirement pay, have been robbed of more than half of their real income by inflation.

The chief beneficiaries of inflation have been the industrial wage earners. The Labor Department records show the average hourly income of factory workers has increased by 77.5% since 1949. But the amount of goods produced per worker has increased by only 35%.

#### Farmers Are Hurt

When the wages of one group rise faster than their productivity other groups must make up the difference by paying higher prices. As pointed out recently by Herschel Newsom, head of the National Grange, "one man's wage becomes another man's costs."

In contrast with factory workers whose pay has gone up faster than their productivity, farmers have received only 5% more income per worker while increasing their productivity by more than 50% in the last eleven years. Contrast this with labor's 77.5% income increase on a production increase of only 35%.

When it is taken into account that the dollar will buy 20% less than it did in 1949, we see that the average farmer can buy far less but factory workers can buy more.

Gross farm income, that is dollars received before pay- (Turn to page 5)

## Rural Rhythms MISCONCEPTION

By: Carol Dean Huber

"You're lucky to live in the country  
And pay no water rent,  
You have all the water you need  
And it doesn't cost a cent."

Yes, I'm lucky to live in the country,  
But not for the reason you tell;  
You could buy water for twenty years  
For the cost of digging my well.

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



**TO CHECK PASTURES**—Livestock producers who have pastures bordering roads or highways should make a clean-up trip before turning their animals to pasture. Empty bottles, paint cans, or trash of various content may have been thrown there during the winter months. In some cases poisonous materials should be found and removed in order to prevent serious losses.

**MAX SMITH TO CONTROL SHEEP TICKS ON LAMBS**—Sheep ticks are the most common external parasite on sheep in this state; many sheep lambs may be carrying a heavy infestation of these parasites move from the adult animals to the lambs soon after the lambing season. Flock owners are urged to inspect their lambs for this tick; the adult is reddish brown to gray in color, flat in conformation, and about 1/4 inch in length. Dust the lambs with a 2% Rotenone or a 10% DDT dust at the rate of one pound for every 12 to 15 head.

**TO FERTILIZE SHRUBS**—Fertilizing landscape shrubs early in the spring before growth starts is very important. The use of 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet of bed of a complete fertilizer such as 5-10-10 on most deciduous shrubs and most evergreens will stimulate good color and growth for the season. The fertilizer should be worked into the top one or two inches of the soil and kept well watered if normal rainfall is lacking.

**TO HANDLE SPRAY MATERIALS CAREFULLY**—Many chemicals are on hand on most farms in order to meet modern methods. This requires very careful storage and handling by the farmer to prevent injury to humans, stock, or plants. All chemicals should be kept out of reach of children and livestock; positive identification should be on each container at all times; also, the strength of chemicals should be retained with the label. Special caution is

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