

FROM WHERE WE STAND -

Stewards Of The Soil . .

"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Psalms 24:1 expresses the philosophy underlying Soil Stewardship week. Beginning with Rural Life Sunday, May 7, the week has been set aside by the association of soil conservation districts as a time for farmers to reflect on their stewardship of the greatest possession our material bodies can own.

Stewardship means more than mere possession of material. Stewardship embodies the care and use of the possession, management of the possession to the benefit of both the user and the owner, and the utilization of the possession for the continuation and conservation of the possession.

But stewardship also includes an accounting for what is done with and to the possession as we'll as what is made from it. Stewardship of the soil calls for an accounting to the owner and maker of all the soil.

Another line from Proverbs says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." In all too many places in the world, there has been no vision and the soil has been so depleted that the people were forced to move on to new areas.

But what will happen when there are no new lands to move onto? Jeremiah 12:11 says—"the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart." If we do not love the land and care for it as it needs to be cared for, our whole land can become desolate, just as the Old Testament prophet predicted it would.

In the first chapter of Genesis, the 31st verse says, "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold it was very good." Deuteronomy 8:7 tells us, "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land"—

America is a land flowing with milk and honey. It is a good land which has been given into our stewardship. It is ours to care for, to dress and tend, to reap the increase, to use the benefit; but it is likewise ours to keep from desolation.

The Old Testament patriarch, Job, knew he had a responsibility to the soil. In the book of Job 31:38 and 40 is written, "If my land cry against me, or that the furrows thereof likewise complain—let thistle grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley."

The children of God are promised that as long as the earth remaineth

there shall be seedtime and harvest. Seedtime and harvest shall come and go, but the earth remaineth, and it is the responsibility of each person who tills the soil to care for the land to leave it as good or better than it was when he became steward.

Another verse from Proverbs, the 22nd verse of the 13th chapter, says, "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children." Lancaster County can look at the broad fertile fields and say, our forefathers left an inheritance, but part of the heritage colors the streams during rains and fills the air with dust.

Proverbs 28:19 says, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread;"—and in Ezekiel 34:27 we read—"the earth shall yield her increase."

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. We are only stewards, but if we till the soil as good stewards there will be plenty of bread, but if the land should cry against us because we have no vision, or because we do not lay it to heart, our whole land is in danger of desolation.

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

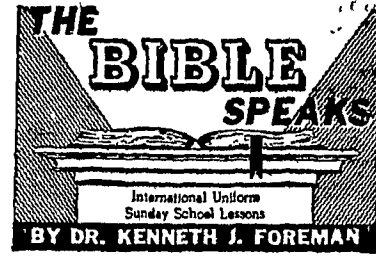
"During the summer, drowning is a greater threat to children than polio, pneumonia, heart disease, tuberculosis, and influenza combined. Approximately 7,000 people in the United States die each year by drowning."

—West Bend Wis. News

Two Denver surgeons report that automobile accidents are the major cause of death among active, young Americans. Forty two per cent of young people between 15 and 25, who die each year, are the victims of traffic accidents, and this is by far the highest cause of death in this age group. The automobile is the major cause of death in our active young group and this should represent an important phase of preventive medicine.

The two doctors made a strong plea for universal use of seat belts in automobiles.

Your chance of avoiding injury or death in case of severe auto accidents are at least 40 per cent better if you are wearing seat belts. Of the 38,000 people who died from auto accidents last year, almost 10,000 could be alive and well today if they had been wearing these life-saving devices.



Bible Material: 1 Kings 3:3-9, Proverbs 3:1-9; 4:20-23, Luke 6:43-45. Devotional Reading: Luke 6:43-49

Out Of The Heart

Lesson for May 7, 1961

"HEART" is a word which has changed its meaning in the course of time. When the Hebrews, who wrote the Bible, used it, they seldom meant the physical organ of the body—that was not understood until about 400



years ago. They usually meant it as a figure of speech. So do we, but with a difference. When English-speaking people use the word "heart," they most often mean the emotions, especially connected with love or the capacity for love. But when Hebrews used that word in their language, they usually meant the whole "inner life." All there is in man that is not physical, all that cannot be observed with microscopes or cut with microtomes, all that cannot be weighed or measured on any scale.

In The Heart

"In the heart"—when you meet that phrase in the Bible—does not mean in the place where you pack your emotions, where you get your thrills. It means in the whole inner self. It means in the mind, in the habits, in the attitudes of life. Two things are specially mentioned in the Proverbs which have been selected for our study this week, that should be kept "in the heart." One is the Commandments, the will of God for human life. That is the place where they have to be written to do any good. The Ten Commandments in a book, in a scroll hanging on the wall, carved into a corner stone or inscribed in a stained glass window—you can shut your eyes to these, or you can forget them. But write them on your heart and you can't forget them. Well, some one will say, I memorized the Commandments and still often I don't keep them—that's because you just put the Commandments

into your brain, and your brain forgets pretty easily. They have to be inscribed, cut deeply as with an engraver's tool, into your whole inner life, your mind, spirit, attitudes, emotions, personality, the whole YOU. The other thing (Proverbs 4:20-21) is "my words," that is to say the words of wisdom. Wisdom has to be put inside and kept inside. Knowledge can be put in books and set on a reference shelf. But wisdom has to be carried around with you, and you can't carry wisdom in a book-bag.

Had it ever struck you that the Bible never uses the expression "with half your heart"? The English expression "half-hearted" is not meant as a compliment. A half-hearted effort is a feeble one. A half-hearted assent is a "yes" that has echoes of "no" in it. No young man wants a girl to tell him she loves him with half her heart. Psychiatrists talk nowadays about split personalities, and that's exactly what half-a-heart means. Especially is this true "True in the Lord with all your heart." This doesn't mean we should never have any self-confidence. It does not forbid us to trust our friends or even (on occasion) perfect strangers. It does hold before us the truth that half-trusting God is like climbing the Alps fastened to the guide with a half-tied rope.

Out Of The Heart

Out of the abundance of the heart a man's mouth speaks, said Jesus of Nazareth. The "heart" is not a safety-deposit box opened only on rare occasions. The heart is not a slow-growing plant blooming once in a lifetime. The heart is always outflowing, we cannot help it. We cannot keep ourselves to ourselves, even if we shut our mouths and refuse to speak to anyone, we are still giving away what kind of persons we are. For the heart is the way you are inside, and sooner or later the heart gives itself away.

Out of the heart flow the "springs of life," (Proverbs 4:23) and this means more than words. Part of the deep meaning of this great truth is this: If you are going to be a spring of life and not a death, to those around you, your life is to revive others' lives as a spring in the desert revives a fainting traveler, it can only be so if there's within you a life that flows. The heart that boards its life for itself perishes.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

TO GET CORN STALKS UNDER — The first hatch of the European Corn Borer may get their start in corn stalks on the top of the ground by the middle of May. This insect continues to do considerable damage each year to the corn crop by weakening the stalk and thus lowering yields. All growers are urged to plow down their stalks as soon as possible.

TO SPRAY TOBACCO PLANTS — Good tobacco seed bed management relates to prevention is much better than trying to cure a disease. Therefore tobacco plant growers are urged to follow a regular spray program using Ferban and Streptomycin formulation for the control of wildfire and blight mold. This spray schedule should start when the plants are the size of a dime and continue each week until ready to plant. Mimeographed sheet of suggestions is available.



MAX SMITH

TO GIVE SHEEP FLOCK SPECIAL CARE — Local shepherds are urged to dip the flock of sheep, drench them for stomach worms, and trim their feet before turning out to pasture for the season. All of these practices may be done at the time of shearing the flock in order to avoid double handling. These are good practices that will increase returns from the flock.

TO BE CAREFUL OF BLOATING—All livestock producers should use special care in early spring in order to prevent their animals from bloating when turned to pasture for the first few times. Feeding of hay, silage, or straw before grazing is one good way to reduce the trouble. Pastures containing a high percentage of legumes such as clover or alfalfa are more likely to cause bloating. Also, grazing on dry when the forage is dry is another safer method.

TO PREVENT UDDER TROUBLE IN DAIRY HERD—Dipping early spring the ground is cold and the milking should not be allowed to lie down on the ground, in many cases the head is turned out to pasture for too long a period and the cows will lie down to rest. Careful management will remove them from the area before they get tired. It is much safer to permit them to rest in the barn or in a shaded area. Many cases of udder trouble have been traced to the chilling of the udder tissue.



Davidson

THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

Harvest Of Shame

Recently the United States Senate confirmed appointment of Mr. Edward R. Murrow as chief of the United States Information Agency, the official government agency in charge of the Voice of America.

Mr. Murrow is in charge of several hundred people who write newspaper and magazine articles, and pre-

pare radio and TV programs for many millions of readers and listeners both in friendly countries and behind the Iron Curtain.

For a great many of those people the USIA is their only contact with the United States. A very great responsibility rests on the shoulders of Mr. Murrow.

Mr. Murrow formerly worked for the Columbia Broadcasting System as a newscaster. We do not know him well, a though we have talked with him in the past about inaccurate reporting. Liquor In The White House

Shortly after Mr. Eisenhower became President of the United States the serving of liquor in the White House was discontinued. This met with great public approval.

Sometime later, the President's wife christened a ship and instead of using wine, she used a bottle of water. My wife and I watched a CBS TV news report of the christening and were amazed to hear Mr. Douglas Edwards state that wine was used. I immediately telephoned

CBS news, calling their attention to the error. The person to whom I spoke indicated that it was not important enough to correct. I asked his name and he replied "Edward R. Murrow." The incident was later reported to the White House, but no correction was ever made.

Migratory Farm Workers

Early this year CBS TV carried a one-hour program called "Harvest of Shame," prepared and moderated by Mr. Murrow. It purported to show shameful working, living and wage conditions a-

Turn to page 5

Rural Rhythms

SOIL and SOUL
By Joseph Gladden Hutton
The earth a bit of star-dust is,
And all of us but smaller bits
Of that celestial stuff.
In each of us, a bit of Soil
That makes us kin
To all that breathes;
In each of us, a bit of Soul
That makes us kin to God.

Forget not, O my Soul,
The sacred Soil!

The Creator through
An con's toil
Combined these two,
And said, "It is enough.
My work is good:
In my own image - Man!
And in his mortal time,
In his own hand,
He holds his fate:
To build or ruin,
To plunder or create."

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