

FROM WHERE WE STAND . Plan - Don't Panic If Fire Comes

Somebody shouted "FIRE," and hundreds of people were trampled to death trying to escape through the few exits in the canvass tent.

The tragic event described above happened a long time ago, but the lesson it has for us is just as important today as it was then: "Don't Panic!"

Do you know what to do in case of fire? Have you worked out a detailed plan with your family spelling out exactly what every member is expected to do if fire breaks out?

We saw a detailed plan worked out by some high school student recently. Written in the front of his English book were the instructions, "In case of fire, throw this book in."

While this is meant to be a ridiculous piece of humor, it does point up one important thought. When fire does break out, don't stop to plan. Just get everybody out of the building. Don't stop to dress a child or try to save valuables. After a fire has started there is no time to plan escape routes and emergency procedure. Every family should sit down and work out such details as to who will be responsible for which of the very small children. Many children have perished in fires because each parent thought the other one had the children.

It is advisable to plan at least two escape routes from each room remembering that halls and stairways will probably be blocked by fire. If the plans include the use of porch or garage roofs or even trees near the house, make sure ropes or ladders are available for descending to the ground.

Regular fire drills for the family could reduce property damage greatly and might even save a life. If drills are held often enough to let even the very small children know what is expected of them and procedures are familiar to every family member there will be less chance for panic.

Many deaths from fire could have been avoided except for one thing — "Panic".

When a fire starts, people tend to forget caution and logic. Instead of seeking out a door or window to freedom they crowd up in one corner and burn to death.

Don't let a thing like this happen to your family. Draw up an emergency plan and make sure every member of the family is thoroughly familiar with it. Their lives could depend on what they do in the few seconds after fire is discovered.

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

Machinery Cost Squeeze

Every farmer who has purchased or is now considering the purchase of a major piece of farm equipment knows the cost story.

An enlightening commentary on this problem was made recently by

Caution Farmers On Butchering On Warm Day

HARRISBURG — With prospects for above normal temperatures during December, State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning today cautioned farmers against improper chilling of farm slaughtered meats.

"Meat spoilage is principally caused by body heat not being thoroughly removed from the freshly killed carcass during the first 24 hours. Carcasses should be kept below temperatures of 35 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit for this initial period. Refrigeration is necessary when outdoor temperatures are above these levels," the Secretary emphasized.

Carcasses are warm and moist after slaughter offering ideal conditions for the

growth of spoilage organisms. If bacterial action is not checked by sufficient chilling to completely penetrate the heavier muscled areas, undesirable changes may occur which cause a green discoloration, and a sour smell and taste. This condition is often referred to as "sour spots."

Proper handling of freshly killed pork is of utmost importance to insure top quality products after curing. Cooling can be facilitated by pulling the leaf fat loose from the inside of the hog, not crowding warm carcasses together, splitting the carcass down the backbone, and by spreading cut pieces out in single layers on slatted shelves thus allowing space between pieces or hangings.

In most farm operations, a man would have to work for 15 cents an hour or less to be competitive with machines.

Willis G. Scholl, president of the Farm Equipment Institute.

In an address in Chicago, Mr. Scholl said, "What about farm equipment prices of the future? We all know that our customers—like any other group of good businessmen — would like to buy for less.

"And, all of us, as builders of farm equipment, wish just as fervently as our customers that our prices could be lowered. We wish, too, that they could go up and down with the price of farm commodities—as some people have inferred they should. Nothing would simplify our selling problems more.

"But the facts are otherwise. Let's look at some of them as reflected in wholesale price indexes, using 1947-49 as the base of 100.

"In the first year, 1947, farm products stood at an even 100 compared to the basic materials of our industry at 89.7.

"Three years later, in 1950, the figures were: Farm products 97.5 and our basic materials 113. And incidentally, the next year with Korea the price of farm products shot up to a 113.4 on the index.

"By 1955 the situation was far different. In that year the farm index had dropped to 89.6, basic materials had climbed to 140.6.

"And from there on out, as every manufacturer knows, the spread has become consistently greater. In April of 1961 our basic materials stood at 170.9; wholesale farm prices at 88.1.

"And if you want strong testimony as to our combined efforts to hold the price in line on behalf of our customers as well as ourselves, our wholesale price index (figured the same way with 1947-49 as 100) stood, last April at 148.6, compared to basic materials at 170.9.

"At the same time labor costs had moved up 183.2 for our industry as a whole."

The report of Mr. Scholl will not reduce by one cent the cost of a piece of machinery; nor will it make the buying of equipment any easier for the farmer. But it might be comforting to know that the price could have obviously, gone much higher if it had kept pace with the cost of labor and basic materials.

Unfortunately the farmer has too little control over the price of the materials he sells. Otherwise he would not be selling at an index of 88.1 and listening to someone brag about what a good fellow he is for charging the farmer at an index-only 148.6.

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

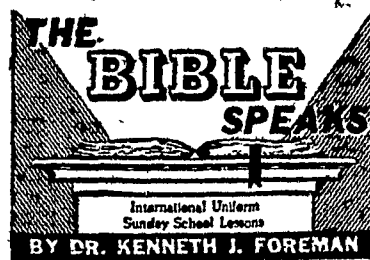
A farmer bought a painting, took it home and hung it first one way and then another. Each time the effect was confusing. Finally his wife asked, "What in the world is that supposed to be?" "Why", said the farmer, "it's a realistic picture of the farm situation. No matter how you look at it, it just don't make sense."

—Moville, Ia., Record

Two important centennials being celebrated in 1962 will be the establishment of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and of the Land-Grant college system.

Lancaster Farming

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International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Luke 4:16-21; 24:25-27; 1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 1:5-8; 3:11 through 4:5
Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:103-112

Growing By Study

Lesson for December 10, 1961

DECEMBER 10th of this year is celebrated all around the world by Christians as Bible Sunday. There are many fine and truthful things to be said about the Bible. The story of how it came down to us is a story of courage, brilliance and heroism. But people do not read it enough. Not even Christians, whose book it chiefly is, spend enough time on it. What conceivable good could you get out of any book if you read only from one to six inches of it a day?



Books are like foods. You expect to see half-starved people in certain oriental countries, where most people never see a square meal. But sometimes you see half-starved people in America, in the midst of abundance. This may be for several reasons. This scrawny person may eat a good deal of the wrong kind of food, or of only one kind. He may fill up on trash and not have an appetite for solid nourishment. Or he may have something wrong with his insides, so that no matter what he eats, his system does not assimilate it.

Books are something like foods. They nourish their readers—that is to say, good books do. Some books are like trash, they fill the mind and starve it at the same time. Some books may be good, but not good by themselves; as a steady diet they lack some important vitamins,—like cornmeal, and lettuce, for instance. And sometimes a man or boy may read a perfectly good book and get nothing out of it, because the mind just won't take it in, or the heart rejects it. Christians, even some who read the Bible, may have scrawny souls for any of these reasons.

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Growing in Mind

A person who did nothing but read the Bible day and night would not be a good Christian, just as a person who sat at the table eating day and night, would be a mighty poor specimen physically. The Bible, however, is like corn-flake in one respect; a few flakes day are hardly enough. Reading it wisely and regularly, with the help you can get, will surely nourish you.—Your mind, to begin with. A book which appeals to your emotions alone would not be a good book—it would be like the cotton candy they sell at county fairs. The Bible introduces you to great thoughts, great truths, great people. Consider Jesus; if he were the only character in the Bible, it would still be the greatest book in the world because he is the greatest person in the world. A man said of a great lady, "to love her is liberal education." This could be said more truly about Jesus; one who comes to love Him through study of the Bible, in which He is the central Figure, will find to use Paul's words—that he being transformed through the renewing of his mind.

Growing in Spirit

But the Bible will especially nourish the soul of the reader. The Christian grows in spirit less than in mind. What this means can be seen from the famous passage in 1 Timothy 3:15-16. The sacred writings Paul says, are "able to instruct you,"—not guaranteed to do so for if you don't want to be instructed you won't be—"to instruct you for salvation through faith." Inspired Scripture, Paul goes on to say, is profitable (among other ways) for training in righteousness. This does not mean learning some code of conduct or any set of rules. It means becoming an expert in the knowledge of living that Christ shows us. It means not merely doing more right things, it means becoming more right person.

Two things are necessary for growth: food and exercise. Without the Bible, the Christian's life may be active but it is not healthy, it is the nervous activity of those who lack solid foods. On the other hand, reading the Bible or even studying it, without ever practicing it, produces spiritual indigestion, not growth. Righteousness—goodness, straightness as the old Hebrews called it—comes by faith; but faith calls for works just as food calls for exercise, if we are to grow strength.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., Released Community Press Service.)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO ADD PHOSPHATE TO MANURE — The majority of Lancaster County soils are low in available phosphorus; one of the good ways to add this important plant food is through the manure in either the dairy stable or in the steer pens. For the dairyman using stanchions it is advised to add from 1½ to 2 pounds daily per cow in the gutter; this will also add to the sanitary condition of the barn. With steady or with loose-housing dairy it is suggested that 8 to 10 pounds of 20% super-phosphate per head be added per week to the area before the animals are bedded.

TO PROTECT FARM POND FROM MUSKRATS — Most farm pond owners face the problem of muskrat control; if allowed to multiply freely, these rodents will destroy the banks and drain the pond. With muskrat trapping season hand all pond owners are urged to make a special effort to reduce, if not eliminate, the muskrat population. If this does not permit the pond owner to do the trapping, the others in the community might be encouraged to trap for the sale value of the pelts.

TO REVISE HAY FEEDING RACKS — One of the most common methods of spreading internal parasites in cattle and sheep is to permit the animals to eat hay or grain from the ground or floor of the pen. Hay racks should be constructed so as to catch the leaves or hay blossoms in a trough rather than let them fall on the floor. Plans are available.

TO PROVIDE LAXATIVE RATION FOR EWES — Flocks of breeding ewes should have daily outside exercise during the gestation period; also, it is strongly advised that the ewes be fed good quality clover or alfalfa hay and a limited amount (1 to 2 pounds per head daily) of a ration containing either Linseed Oilmeal pellets or molasses. Laxative roughage and grains will reduce the trouble from pregnant ewe disease that is common with low quality roughages and little grain.