

From Where We Stand . . . Spring - - The Hope Eternal

A slender V, pointing north, silhouetted, itself against the leaden sky the eerie honk of the wild goose, on the long-awaited journey to his ancestral nesting ground, echoed in the first faint grey of dawn, and Spring slipped North on slender wings

Knee-deep frogs peeped their awakening chorus, cat tails and skunk cabbage thrust exploring fingers through the surface mud of the swamp, so recently thawed, and Spring sneaked North on quiet feet

Mosquitos buzzed and hummed around the old apple tree stump in the backyard orchard, the honeybee ventured forth in search of the blossoms which will nourish the bodies of his brothers long after, he has gone back to the earth from which he came, and Spring wended her way North on gossamer wings

Robins hopped hopefully along the frozen lawn and flew back to the apple tree to squawk at the impertinent blackbirds already carrying the winter-dried weeds to their nesting sites, and Spring swung North on a magnolia-scented zephyr

All across America millions of snow shovels gave way to garden spades in the show windows and the minds of suburbanites and Spring swung North with a vengeance, on stout legs and nimble feet

And all across America, on farms and ranches, thoughts turned from frozen water pipes and drifted lanes to newborn lambs and newsown seeds, thoughts turned from the brightly colored seed catalogs to the brown earth with its wake-up smell behind the plow, and Spring came on with a bound

"Spring", whispered the swelling bud on the cherry tree.

"Spring", answered the grass from beneath the snowdrift.

"Spring", insisted the catkin on the Pussy Willow.

"Spring", grumbled the mud in the lane

"Spring", cried the bluejay in the walnut tree.

"Spring", screamed the weasel as she traded her white coat for brown.

"Spring", shouted a million noisy and silent voices in chorus and in discord — all at once and all of a sudden

"Spring", said the farmer. "Thank God for another seed time and the promise of another harvest"

In spring it is somehow hard to worry overmuch about the woes of man-

kind and his self-inflicted suffering His war-mongering and incessant wranglings over the material possessions of the world seem somehow to pale into insignificance alongside the orderly awakenings of Mother Nature's children

We feel proud, but humble, to have witnessed this awakening, and we feel sorry for those who have never had the opportunity to witness it. But we feel more sorry for those who have lived in the midst of it all their lives, and have never yet, had the time to see or feel it.

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



Made Your Will?

People who are well rarely think of being sick. Men working in shops and in the forests give little thought to being hurt. Drivers, even knothead speeders, regard a car accident as a misfortune that happens to someone else. The farmer believes it is only his neighbor who can't get his hand out of dangerous places soon enough

But Old Man Statistics points a warning finger. Crackups on the road are not a respecter of persons. A man perfectly well today may be desperately ill of a sudden seizure tonight

All too often a man in perfect health suddenly leaves his family and never returns

Although this though is neither pleasant nor hopeful it is a place we must all come to some time

But when a man is well it is difficult to think that times may sometimes change

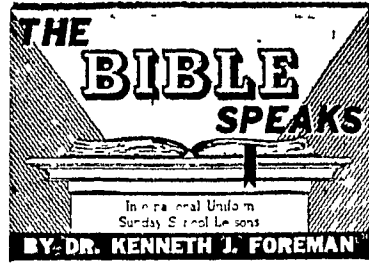
When a man is well it is difficult for him to give much thought to the disposition of his worldly possessions after he is gone. It is not easy to contemplate the financial condition his family would be left in if he were suddenly taken from them.

But when a man is well — that is the time to consider. That is the time to plan.

Every farmer should have a will. It is a simple thing to prepare and could be the difference between ease and hardship for the family.

Have you made your will? It could easily make you more money than anything else you do today

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



Bible Material I Timothy
Devotional Reading Philipplans
1:12-21

Christ the Center Lesson for April 1, 1962

JESUS CHRIST is often called the center of the Christian faith, and with good reason. True Christian faith is quite definite, however mysterious some of its aspects may be.



Dr. Foreman

Just "I believe" doesn't make a Christian out of you. Mohammedans believe, so do Pharisees and Jews and Spiritualists and Mormons and Buddhists. So, for that matter, do Voodoo witch-doctors and devil-worshippers. Everybody believes something — just believing in general isn't Christian. It is not even common sense. What can possibly be meant by "believing" or "faith" without faith in something or somebody? A "believer" who isn't in the least sure of what or whom he believes is as pathetic a figure as a "Goe" who has no idea where he is going. Just "going" will get you nowhere, so just "believing" gets you nowhere either.

Center of grace

Christ is the center of Christian faith, the pole to which faith's compass swings. This is true first of all because Christ is the center of God's grace. As the New Testament writers use that word "grace," they most often mean by it the undeserved but freely given favor of God to men. Paul puts it in a nutshell in I Tim. 1:14: "The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." Grace—faith—love—Christ Jesus: they all go together, Paul cannot think of one apart from the rest.

The kind of world we have to live in sometimes discourages us about a God of love. If we believe that God is a God of love, there must be a strong reason for our faith, something because of which we believe, to offset all that in spite of which we believe. And this "something" is Jesus Christ.

It is because we believe him to be God's gift to us, to each one of us who will take him,—it is because we understand as St. Paul said that Christ's life and even death were for our sakes, that he literally poured himself out in sacrifice for us,—that we find in him the center of God's grace

Center of redemption

There are many ways used in the New Testament, by Paul and others, to describe in metaphors what we call Salvation—for Salvation, we must always remember, is the main aim of all religions. Salvation is what God does to rid us of what despoils and ruins us, namely sin. Salvation is the name of all that brings man out of the "far country" and into his Father's home. One of the words, used sometimes in place of "Salvation," is "Redemption," or literally "Buying Back." The picture is of wretched people who are being held for ransom, suddenly set free through the payment of the price demanded. Christ is the ransom, it is he who paid the price, who was the price, of our freedom from sin, our being "alive to God" as Paul put it once. So Christ is the center of redemption. Without him we would be unredeemed. Almost in the same sentence Paul calls Christ the Mediator between God and man. He is the Bridge, the Way. It is he who opens the door to God, it is he who breaks down our opposition, makes us as one with God. Center! How could Christ have any other place?

Center of hope

Because some Christians have not seen clearly the meaning of Christ and Christianity for this present life and world, and have as good as said that we don't begin to "cash in" in our faith till after we die, other Christians have fled to the opposite extreme, and found the entire meaning of Christianity in this world and time. Today there is a swing of the pendulum back toward where it used to be, though not all the way. We can see that both ideas are true: our religion is for today, tomorrow and always. Christianity is a religion of hope; and that needs to be remembered in dark days like the present. This earth will pass away, and God knew it when he made it. But that does not spell the end for God's people. Christ will come again. The "appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ"—though in ways we may be surprised to see—is a constant hope of the New Testament. So Christ is again the center of faith, for he is the center of our hope.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Community Press Service.)

Dairymen Need Health Charts To Move Cows

Harrisburg — Resolutions effective April 1 will require health papers to accompany any cattle being moved to new herds, the State Department of Agriculture announced today.

The regulation aimed at reducing spread of livestock disease requires a certificate that the animal has had within the previous twelve months both a negative blood test for brucellosis and a negative test for bovine tuberculosis.

Presently the only description of the animal's health status is a card stating that the animal was in the herd at the time of the last milk-ring test and that it was in the herd or is progeny of a herd animal when the last tuberculosis test was conducted. Diseased animals are removed from herds.

Department officials said the regulations were being re-applied after a three-year temporary suspension because the campaign toward complete eradication had slowed during the trial period.

Analysis of tuberculosis cases showed the major source of infection had been recently purchased additions to a herd. The Department said the regulations are to protect the purchaser from introducing infection into a previously healthy herd.

Weed Control In Lawns Takes Management

Crabgrass invades most lawns because normal maintenance practices have been neglected, says Prof. Claude E. Phillips, chairman of the agronomy department at the University of Delaware. Adequate soil fertility and proper height of cutting are the most important maintenance practices for an attractive lawn.

If crabgrass has a foothold in your lawn, pre-emergence chemicals applied now can be effective.

A number of chemicals have been used for control of crabgrass, but only two have been very consistent in giving effective control. These are Zy-

tron and Dacthal. Chlorlone has given good results in a few cases but has been inconsistent in its effectiveness. Zytron and Dacthal gave 85 to 100 per cent control of crabgrass in trials at the University. (Continued on page 5)

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO TREAT TOBACCO SEEDS Growers are urged to treat their home-grown tobacco seed in a 1:1000th solution of silver nitrate for 15 minutes in order to kill seed-borne diseases. After this soak period it is very important to rinse the seeds thoroughly in either distilled water or rain water and the second rinsing in regular water. Spread the seeds out to dry or seed with a watering can. The silver nitrate treatment should be made in an earthen-ware or glass container. Never use metal utensils around silver nitrate.

TO TOP-DRESS GRASS-LEGUME STANDS . . . Grassland farmers are reminded that early spring is one of the good times to top-dress alfalfa, red clover, or pasture fields with fertilizer. With the grass-legume mixtures fertilizers such as 0-15-30 or 0-20-20 at the rate of 300 to 400 pounds per acre should give good results, some producers will wait until immediately after the first cutting to make this fertilizer application. With pasture fields that are mostly grass straight applications of nitrogen at the rate of 50 to 75 pounds per acre will give excellent growth.

TO PRUNE SHADE TREES . . . All home owners and grounds keepers are advised that early spring is the best time to prune both young and established shade trees (not evergreens). The cutting out of diseased or dead wood and the cutting or shortening of branches to improve the shape of the tree will add to the property value. Sharp pruning shears and saw are essential and make all cuts clean and close to the limb or trunk of the tree.

(Continued on page 5)