

# From Where We Stand . . .

## The Water That Sustains Us

Man can live without food for only a few weeks. Without water, human life can exist only a few days.

In a world of many choices, you have no choice about water. You must have it — or perish.

Nor is man alone in this need. Water is vital to the life of all living things.

This is not a new or startling revelation, but the simplicity of the truth makes the truth no less important.

"The Water That Sustains Us", is the fitting theme of Soil Stewardship Week, beginning with May 27, Rural Life Sunday.

Our demands on the water supplies of the world are increasing daily. Neither is this a new revelation, but too often we do not pause to consider that as we increase our demands on the supply, we compound our responsibility to protect and manage the supply.

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts says, "The water that sustain us demands constant vigilance."

We have learned that the universal benefits of pure water are not automatic. They demand constant vigilance.

In Lancaster County, recent tests show that water from one third of the wells and springs once wholesome and pure, is now unfit for human consumption.

Each year the hazards and ugliness of pollution in this beautiful county increase. Far too vast amounts of rich topsoil flow down our streams each year. New industry and new population increases put added strains on the once-luxuriant supply.

There is a price for pure water, and we are learning tardily and sometimes reluctantly, that it must be paid in care and dollars alike.

The water that sustains us undergirds the community. Water has been the elementary fact of human society.

Primitive societies sprang into being wherever a pure and bountiful supply of water could be found. Later communities came into being where water supplies, neither pure or bountiful could support life when populations outgrew the confines of centers of pure water.

As the villages followed the grazing camps springing from stream watered meadows, the trading centers and cities followed the villages. Water wheels turned the first mills and factories and water bore the burden of commerce from earliest civilizations to modern times.

Even today water is an integral part of manufacturing and commerce. Man has followed a stream of water on all his journeys of exploration, but he has rarely gone beyond.

The water that sustains us requires adjustment to nature. Many people will say there is no water shortage — it is just not distributed evenly.

There is some truth to this. Many

arcas of the world have rainfall far in excess of the needs while others are parched and bare.

Lands that were once dry are now being irrigated, and lands once under water are being drained. Storms, ice, wind and rain, are being constantly studied to determine how man can cooperate with nature for the benefit of man.

The nature of weather has remained constant since the beginning of recorded history. While we can not alter the laws of nature, we need to be just as constant in our attempt to adjust to nature.

The water that sustains us challenges the imaginations of man. The history of man has been a succession of conquests of the impossible.

In his reach for new horizons, man has constantly been on the search for ways to reach a more harmonious relationship with water. He has sought to use water to make his livestock, crops and machinery more productive.

And little by little man has progressed toward a friendlier more fruitful relationship.

Who can say how soon bridges will span the vast waters of the world? Who can say how soon the salt waters of the world's oceans can be made sweet to drink for man, beast and tree? Who can say how soon man will be able to purify the rivers, harness the tides, replenish the underground reservoirs or manipulate the clouds at will? In due course all these things and many more will come to pass.

The water that sustains us can elevate man's horizons, the water that sustains us invites cooperative efforts, and the water that sustains us tests the judgment of nations.

The lack of water brought out the worst in man throughout recorded time. The sharing of water throughout the same time has brought out the best, the finest, the highest ideals.

As man lifts his eye upward to God in quest of a new hope and guidance, he often finds that God has already provided him, in the priceless gift of water, with the means of a brighter tomorrow.

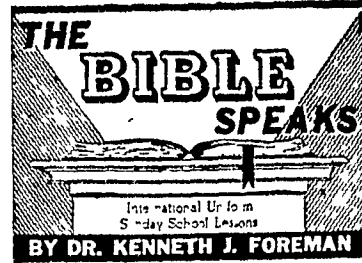
As men join forces in the attainment of their common goals, they are learning that soil stewardship and water stewardship are inseparable. They are learning, too, that as they work together enhancing the purpose of God's gifts, they invariably serve more than themselves.

The water that sustains us flows from God, and shapes our earthly destinies. As is found in Job 38:28 "Who is the father of the rain? or who beget the drops of dew?"

Water is life. We can not live without it.

We can not live well unless we manage well the water over which we have been made stewards.

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



Bible Material: Matthew 6:14, Luke 15:11-32, I John 1:1 through 2:17  
Devotional Reading: I Thessalonians 5:12-24

### Tests of Faith

Lesson for May 27, 1962

HOW do we know when a person's faith is genuine? "We" means human beings,—such as other Christians. We don't know this as God knows it. He looks on the heart, as we cannot. God knows everyone's faith as he knows all things, directly. But there is a great deal that we human beings know only indirectly, such as the state of another person's mind and the sincerity of another's motives.



Dr. Foreman

It is not, after all, other people's faith that most concerns us. What about our own? Do we really have faith or do we only think we have? Some people (like bishops, pastors, elders, parents) do have the great responsibility of deciding, in all humility, whether the alleged faith (for example) of candidates for membership in the church or candidates for baptism, is what it is claimed to be. (To judge from the present state of Christ's church, some errors of judgment at this point seem to have been made. Probably not enough testing has been done.)

#### Just a walk

"By their fruits ye shall know them," Jesus said. God does not need to wait till the fruit ripens to see what the tree will produce; but we do. Paul gives us (in Gal 5) a list of "fruits of the spirit." The Apostle John had his own way of expressing things. He would take a simple word and make it hold many meanings. One overall test which he proposed really says the same things Paul and Jesus said, in other words. John's test was this: How does this person walk? He uses "walk" in the Old Testament sense, the one thing after another, the every-dayness of living. Life can be likened to a race or to a fight; but most of the time it is just a walk. No

exciting, not dramatic, just a little tedious, monotonous and slow. Many a man waits in vain for a great crisis in which he can prove himself a hero. But most lives don't operate by crises, they are pretty dull, when you come right down to it. John makes the point that it is just this everyday walking that is the test of the reality of faith.

#### Walking in light

How do you walk, then? John speaks more than once of "walking in light." Cockroaches and jackals walk in darkness. Deer and humming-birds move by daylight. Walking in light means living with your shades up and your windows clean. It means living so that you will have no skeletons to hide in closets. It means a life "like an open book," clean paper and clear type. It means you could die on the street the next time you go to the super-market, and not worry about what people would find in the house after you are gone. Walking in light means being what you seem to be. Walking in light also means in God's light, keeping close to him, remembering him in love and a thankful heart. It means steering your boat by the great lighthouse and not by the little lights on the fishing-boats. It means living in joy and hope, not in gloom and despair.

#### The way He walked

John has another way of putting this. Any one who claims to be "abiding in Christ" is using language that was dear to Christ and to his friend and apostle John. But the test of faith is not the beautiful language that can be used about it. The claim is a good claim; but how do you test it? You can't see a person abiding in Christ. We have his word for it, yes, but how do we know he is sincere? John has the answer in words of one syllable: One who claims to be abiding in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked. This means nothing, of course, to one who knows nothing of how our Lord lived on earth. This calls for ever-fresh, ever-renewed, ever-renewing study of the Gospel records. There are those who say it makes little difference what manner of man Jesus was. John could not agree to that. It is of vital importance to know as much as we can of how Jesus met life, how he worked, taught, helped,—how he met trial and terrors, how he faced triumph and tragedy, friends, enemies and finally death. The simplest test of faith is: Does it produce a life reminding us of Jesus?

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Keep Atrazine Away From Tobacco

The widespread use of Atrazine as a chemical weed spray on corn ground should not be confused with its possible damage on tobacco ground. This material should positively not be used on tobacco ground either before or after planting. Last year considerable damage was done when some of the spray tanks were not thoroughly cleaned between spraying of corn fields with atrazine and the spraying of tobacco land prior to planting for wireworm and cutworm control. Keep Atrazine away from the tobacco land.

### To Fertilize Legumes

Successful quality forage producers use the practice of applying phosphorus and potash fertilizer such as 0-20-20 or 0-15-30, immediately after the removal of the first crop of alfalfa or clover. This provides additional plant food for later cuttings and is a recommended practice.

### To Kill Alfalfa Weevils

Producers of alfalfa who had weevil infestation on their first cutting and did not spray should spray immediately after the removal of the first crop in order to kill the small green worms, if these small larvae are not killed they will feed upon the second growth and prevent much growth. Use either 2 quarts of Methoxychlor or 1 1/2 pints of Malathion per acre.

### To Kill Weeds in Tobacco Ground

Growers who have a weed problem in their tobacco field might allow the weeds to get some growth then spray with 2 pints of the amine form of 2,4-D per acre wait for a ten-day to two week period and then prepare their soil for planting. This chemical handled in this manner will not harm the tobacco plants and will reduce the weed problem later in the season.

### Lancaster Farming

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