

From Where We Stand . . .

Shepherds In The Fields At Night

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

This beautiful story from the Gospel according to St. Luke has become one of the most beloved passages in all written literature.

We believe it should hold particular significance for rural people as this joyous season comes once again. God could have chosen anyone on earth, from the great to the small, to be the first to hear the good tidings of great joy, but he chose the simple shepherds to receive the divine proclamation from on high.

Then as in our day, all too many of the great and near great, by the standards of men, were so wrapped up in their own concerns and fears that they probably would not have heard the message if it had been given to them, or if they had heard, would not have believed their ears. All too many of them would have explained it away with big, important sounding words and would have attached no significance to the event.

All too many of them would have continued in their mad race to amass more of the goods of the world and would not even have had the time to go to the place where he lay.

And so in this day, all too many get bound up in the race for wealth or power or position or status or pleasure and have no time to turn toward Bethlehem for more than a fleeting glance

It remains for the simple in faith, needs, wants, desires to make the pilgrimage each December to the manger and hear the angels saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"

It remains for those of faith like a little child to say as the shepherds of old, "Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us."

And it remains for the unsophisticated persons to do as the shepherds of old when they "made known abroad the

saying which was told them concerning this child."

But the angels said the message was to be for all people. The Christ Child came not only to the shepherds, but to the wise men and kings — to emperors and beggars. The story of Christmas is not only for the shepherds but for all the people all over the world wherever they may be.

May we wish for you the peace and good will of which the angels spoke, for if you have not this, all the material gifts you may receive will be more worthless than last year's tinsel. But if you have the peace, joy, and good will of this season all these others will be added unto you.

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

Market Orders

The president of the American Farm Economics Association, George E. Brandow, recently declared that federal marketing orders would not effectively control egg production at the present time

Brandow says to make marketing orders work there must be direct production regulation, and at present no effective way of administering such a program has been devised.

Dr. Brandow, an economist at the Pennsylvania State University says perhaps marketing orders will become more workable as poultry farmers become bigger and fewer — with less direct retailing

Dr. Brandow believes that the fewer poultrymen may become more strongly organized nationally and more favorably inclined towards marketing orders, but at present he says "The most useful purpose of a marketing order would be to put a brake on the 'plungers' — those producers whose rapid expansion upsets the market."

We have said many times that one of the best ways to get rid of government controls is for the farmer to put on the controls himself. Rarely is there a regulation passed unless there is some need for it, but all too often, the law does not get repealed when the need no longer exists

The best way to get rid of any constricting legislation is to prevent its being passed in the first place.

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

Crop Yields To Top 1960

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department reported Tuesday that total crop production this year matched the record level of 1960 despite the smallest acreage in modern times

In its final crop production report of the year, the department said record high yields per acre for many crops was the major factor in raising production to the record level. Earlier forecasts this year had indicated the volume would be about 35 per cent below the record

Much land was retired from use this year under government grain programs

The report said favorable growing weather in the central part of the nation helped corn and other feed grains

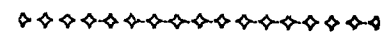
reach record yields per acre. Compared with last year, food grain, vegetables, fruit and nuts showed some decline in output, while other groups included in the crop production pattern increased.

Acreage of the 59 major crops planted or grown this year totaled 302 million acres. This was nearly 3 per cent less than last year and the lowest since the department started keeping records in 1929.

Gather Eggs Often

Gather eggs in cold weather just as often as during summer, reminds Carl Dossin, Penn State extension poultry specialist. It is important that they are stored in a place which is not subject to the extremes of heat and cold. In many cases, a small room partitioned off in a corner of the house cellar makes it possible to provide excellent conditions for keeping eggs at top quality.

John Keats, English poet, was a surgeon and died of tuberculosis at the age of 26, and Thomas Carlyle, physician and Scottish essayist,



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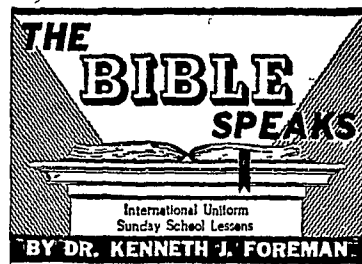
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International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

God Comes To Us

Lesson for December 23, 1962

THE truth about Christmas is not to be seen on the Christmas tree, not in the bargain-basement Santa Claus, not in the holly and the ivy, and not in every Christmas carol. Yet some of the carols tell the story truly; "Immanuel has come to thee . . ." or "Thou didst leave thy throne . . ." or "Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing"; and others telling the same story.



Dr. Foreman

The deep truth about Christmas is that the day celebrates the coming of God to us. The very name Immanuel means "God with us." Now it would not at all be true to say that God had never come to this world before; he was here in creation, he has been here in history, in the beauty and the order of all this vast universe. The prophets, one and all, knew him, and the poets sang of him. But what was new about the first Christmas (and what it began) was that now men could not only know that God is, we know what God is like.

God is Expression

Jesus Christ is the translation of God into the language of human living. He is the Eternal in the pattern of time. There are philosophers who do not see how the High God can possibly express himself; but the Bible tells us of a God who is not content with expressing himself, he desires to communicate with his children. In John I Christ is called the Word. He lived to be, he lived to tell. He is God's messenger but also he is God's message. The Word—the Expression, the Message, the Communication—of God "became flesh" on that first Christmas. Anyone might have thought that if God came to the world he had made, to the people he had made, in a new way,—they might have thought it would

be a new form of words, a theology; a new creed to believe. But no—God expressed himself above all in a man who was a little baby. God's Word to us is put in the form we can understand, in one who was made all respect like as we are, without sin."

God Comes in Light

Poets and writers of Christmas carols have often made something of the Christmas Eve picture, dark hillside, no light anywhere except for the stars overhead, the one light in the stable. Apostle John, writing his Christmas story, says nothing about the inn or the stable or shepherds. But he does say something about the light. John thinking beyond Bethlehem to generations yet to come. He says what the story of this child, great man, this Gift of God to man, what this Man, this Godman, mean to the race of man. He is the Light, God's light, "light every man." John does not want to see that the picture has a dark side. There were and there are some who do not receive his light. He is a Light shining in darkness. The darkness never has understood the Light, the darkness never has quenched the Light, but yet the darkness is still there. To drop the parable a moment, the coming of God to us in Christ, the Light of the World, can mean and does mean nothing at all to those who will not see.

Once we understand the meaning of Christmas, the coming of God to men, to all men who will turn and see, then we understand that it is something to be done about. No one on whom the Light has shone can be content that it has shone on him alone. Those who have found the Light are bound to spread the Light, indeed to (as Jesus said) the light of the world themselves.

But if we stopped here, it would leave us with a discouraging question. How can we be the light of the world? Again John points to the answer. To those who receive the Light, God gives "power to become children of God." By ourselves, we cast a pretty feeble light. By ourselves, we are weak. God's "coming" is not like the coming of man. People come and go away, and we are not greatly changed. But when God comes and we open our lives to him, we begin to be changed from the very core of our lives. As we share in the vision of God, so we share in the power of the God who comes to us in Jesus.

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

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

To Practice Farm Pond Safety

Ice skating on frozen farm ponds is a very popular winter-time sport, however, all pond owners should be prepared for a rescue in case someone breaks through the ice; the same rope, inner-tube, board, or old ladder that was used to protect swimmers last summer should be kept near the pond during the skating season. These pieces of equipment will expedite getting a skater out of the water with little danger to others.

To Prepare Farm Show Exhibits

State Farm Show is a grand show window for all farm products, thousands of people observe these exhibits each year. Every exhibitor should make a special effort for perfection in his or her display, this is just as true in fitting and training of livestock as in the selection of ears of corn, potatoes, or leaves of tobacco. If the decision has been made to enter the show, then be certain that your product is of the very best.

To Be Careful With Christmas Decorations

The Holiday Season is to be a joyful time for all members of every family; many extra decorations, candles, and electric lights increase the fire hazards about the home. Extreme care should be practiced to eliminate open flame near decorations and evergreen trees. A fresh Christmas tree kept well watered is an

other safety measure.

To Have A Happy Holiday Season

Many fathers, mothers, and grandparents are too busy these modern times to really enjoy their families and to actually spend time with their children. The Holiday Season might be a real good time to do this very thing; many children become grown up

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