

# From Where We Stand . . .

## Don't Break Rule Number Six

Be careful you don't break rule number six.

A friend came out with these words the other day when one of his co-workers was blowing off some steam about a fancied hurt inflicted by one of his associates.

"What's rule number six?" the wounded one expostulated.

Rule number six is simply, "Don't take yourself too seriously," the placating one soothed.

"O.K., O.K.," growled the wounded one, "But what are the other five rules?"

"There are no other rules," said the peacemaker, as smooth as oil.

We think this is a pretty good philosophy. It does not pay to take yourself too seriously.

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what we are doing that we can not understand why everyone else is not as interested in it as we are. We get so interested in our job that we sometimes forget that those with whom we deal may have conflicting interests.

Sometimes we become so wrapped up in the business of farming that we forget there are millions of people in this country whose only interest in farming is the food on their tables and the clothes on their backs. As long as they have a full stomach and warm clothing on cold days, they could care less about how these things came into being.

The best time you could spend once a week is the few minutes it takes to try to get the viewpoint of the consumer. Millions of dollars are spent every year, by manufacturers, in research to find out what the consumer wants and in what form he will buy it. Farmers need to know this information about the products they have for sale.

They have to know what the consumer wants and how he will buy it. They have to know this in order to tailor production to meet the demand. The farmer who does not have this information at his fingertips is on the road to bankruptcy



Mad dogs and Englishmen, they say, go out in the noonday sun.

With dog days approaching, we sometimes wonder if we are mad dogs or Englishmen.

But the work-a-day world goes on and we earn our bread by the sweat of the brow — in the noonday sun or the gray light of dawn or twilight.

Being of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the thought of being an Englishman sits none too well, so we have decided that we must be the other variety.

But if Dog Days come, can fall be far behind?

As we do the chores with icy fingers next January, we will probably look back to August and think, "It wasn't so bad after all."

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

Too many farmers take themselves so seriously that they forget that they have to be in the business of pleasing people. They have to cater to needs, wants, and desires, or they will end up trying to consume all they grow to keep it from going to waste. Too much of that sort of thing and they will find it going to waft.

But there is more to this thing of not taking yourself too seriously.

We believe that many farmers have stayed in the business for a long time because they could laugh at their own mistakes. The business of farming is hard work, but a sense of humor can go a long way toward making any chore seem lighter.

Take a good look at yourself. Are you breaking rule number six?

If you are, the rest of the rules can't help you much.

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



Live an Enlightened Life! — Dr. Calvin E. Gross, New York City's new superintendent of schools, calling for "intellectual development" in the schools made this perceptive observation: "Every citizen of this country, whether he pounds nails, raises corn, designs rockets or writes poetry, should be taught to know and love his American heritage; to use the language well; to understand the physical universe, and to enjoy the arts. The dollars he gains in absence of enlightenment like this will be earned in drudgery and spent in ignorance."



"Going Whole Hog" might make a dent in your food budget, but the expression does not have its origin in food, says the American Meat Institute. Long ago a ten-cent piece was called a hog. So a sport who was willing to squander a dime was said to "go the whole hog".

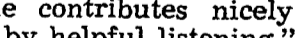


C. Vann Woodward writes, in his "The American Character": "We have to assume that other people in the world simply do not have our fortunate, fortunate history. We have got to recognize a world where there is diversity, not one divided into two antagonistic forces in a cold war but a world in which there are many kinds of peoples, with very different cultures. What is good for America is not necessarily going to be good for other people. We cannot export all the values that we ourselves love and cherish."

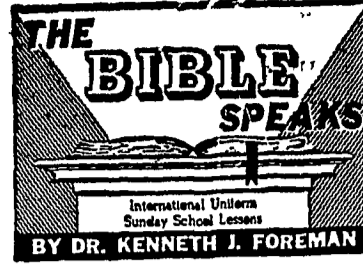


### Modern Education

Because no school financed by taxpayers' money can afford to flunk out too many kids, the education system has designed a method of grading so that most children get some kind of passing grade. The height in strained encouragement occurred when a teacher added this note to an otherwise poor report. "He contributes nicely to group singing by helpful listening."



The latest joke among East Berliners, according to a letter from one published in a West Berlin newspaper: "Will trade luxurious lakeside villa for hole in the wall."



## Covenant People

Lesson for August 11, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis 15-20.  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 111.

ONE of the most important words in the Bible is "Covenant." It may not be a common word today, but it stands for something we all cherish. When a president or other official elected by the people takes the oath of



office, that is a covenant. When a young couple repeat their marriage vows, that is a covenant. A covenant is a special kind of promise, it is a two-way thing. Sometimes a man will

Dr. Foreman say "I promised myself so and so . . ." but that is not usual. Now the point of the Covenant,—it is always the Covenant,—in the Bible is that religion is a two-way street. It is a relationship, it is a promise of God to man and of man to God. "Pivotal promise"

Many things can be said about the idea of Covenant in the Bible and in the life of the Christian. (Christians often call themselves the Covenant People or the New Israel.) Let us pick out three. First, the Covenant stands for the fact that you are not supposed to slide or glide into relationship with God. You choose God, He chooses you. Religion is not contemplation, though there is room in it for contemplation. Religion is a commitment, a promise you are not to throw lightly to one side. Religion-by-accident is not Bible religion. Religion-on-purpose is more like it. Religion is personal or not genuine. It is personal or a fake. Your parents can't sign for you, they can't respond to God for you, they can't come to God, or choose Him, in your place. Religion is voluntary.

### Religion is for always

The word Covenant also suggests that religion of the right kind is continuous, you can't put it on as you might put on a raincoat, now and then when a storm comes up. There are people who

do just that, you know; they never enter God's house nor read God's Word, but they holler for help when they are in trouble. God for them is just a raincoat to keep life's rains from their sensitive skins. For other people, religion is something for Sunday, or something to take when you go visit your grandmother, something old-fashioned, kept like an old rocking chair but too weak to bear any one's weight. On the contrary, the Covenant-idea of religion suggests that our relation to God is not only personal and undertaken by an act of our free will, but it is continuous. It may be out of your consciousness but it is always a fact. You may not always be thinking that you are a married person; but fortunately you are married whether you are aware of it every waking minute or not. A Christian is just as much in a "Covenant relation" to God when he is at work on the farm or in the bank or the hospital as he is in church. Furthermore, the Covenant approach to religion suggests that our relation to God is active not passive. In the Old Testament and the New, Covenant always carries with the obligation to Obedience. It leads to doing as well as to being.

### Religion, singular and plural

We have been talking about Covenant as if it were all a matter between the soul and God, a private, individual matter. Well it is; but it would belie the Bible picture of Covenant if we stopped here. There are comparatively few cases where God is said to have a covenant with some individual as with Abraham. The standard picture is God on one side and the "Covenant People" on the other. Our relation to God is never what it ought to be if it is strictly individual and no more. The Lord's Prayer sets the keynote for the New Testament. It uses the first person plural: Our Father . . . Give us this day . . . forgive us as we forgive . . . There is a Community of the Covenant,—which is another way of saying there is a community of the committed: namely the church. That is, the Covenant which each person has with God, and the Covenant which the community has with Him, are two aspects of the same thing. The church—your church—any true church however small or large—is not just a conglomeration of all sorts and conditions of men, though it is that; but the important fact about the church is what the members have in common; they belong to one another, and they belong to God.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX M. SMITH

### To Side-Dress Rhubarb

Rhubarb needs time before winter to store food supplies in the roots. The use of four pounds of a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer per hundred feet of row applied along the side of the plants in a band about 18 inches from the crown will meet the needs. Keep down the weeds by cultivating or mulching. Lack of fertility may cause thin stalks each year.

### To Mark Wet Spots

On land with a drainage problem it is advised to locate the exact source of the wet area at this time of the year. When moisture conditions are quite low in the soil, these wet spots will stand out green and may be marked as the source of the excess wet areas at other times of the year. If these are identified now, then open-ditch or tile drains may be established later this fall or early next spring.

### To Ensile Corn In Dent Stage

Many tons of corn silage will be made in the coming months. Many more pounds of feed nutrients will be preserved if farmers will permit the corn stalk to develop into the dent stage before cutting for silage. As the kernels in the ear pass through the milk stage, into the dough stage, and then into the dent stage the feed value increases. Corn growers are urged to recognize this proper stage of maturity in order to get the most feed value.

### To Sow A Winter Cover Crop

Open ground over the winter

months is not good soil management; this practice exposes valuable topsoil to both wind and water erosion; this loss does get severe on many fields and land owners may not realize the problem. Crops such as winter rye, domestic ryegrass, field brome grass, sweet clover, and the winter grains, are all good cover crops that will not only provide some late fall and early spring pasture, but hold the soil and water where it should be. Keep the ground covered with vegetation over the winter months is a good farming practice.

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