

From Where We Stand . . .

Shepherds In The Fields At Night

. . . And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar-Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one of his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

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

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



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"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, 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 this story should hold

particular significance for rural people as this joyous season comes once again.

God could have chosen anyone on earth, great or small, rich or poor, wise or foolish, learned or ignorant, to be the first to hear the good tidings of great joy, but he chose the simple shepherds to receive the divine proclamation.

Perhaps God knew, in his infinite wisdom, that many of the great and near great (by the standards of men) would have been so wrapped up in their own concerns and fears that they would not have heard the message if it had been given to them, or if they had heard, would not have believed. All too many of them would have explained it away with big, important-sounding words, if indeed, they had heard it at all.

All too many of them would have continued on in their mad rush to accumulate more of the world's goods and would not have had time to go to the place where he lay.

So too, in this day all too many are bound up in the race for wealth, power, position, status or pleasure, and have no time for more than a fleeting glance toward the manger in Bethlehem.

It remains for the simple in faith, needs, wants, and 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 with the faith of a little child to say with the shepherds of old, "Let us go even now unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has 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 made known to them concerning the child."

But the angel 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 beggars and emperors. The story of Christmas is not only for shepherds but for all the people — all over the world — wherever and wherever they may be.

May we wish for you and your loved ones that peace and good will of which the angel spoke, for if you have not this, all the material gifts you receive will be worthless than last year's tinsel. But if you have that peace and joy, "all these others will be added unto you."

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

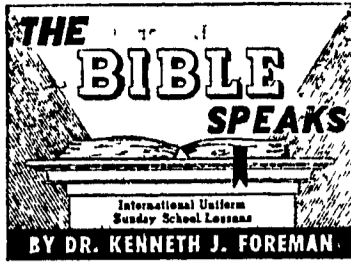


How Do You Rate — "We regard a man who takes no interest in public affairs, not as harmless, but as . . . useless . . ." "This is what the philosopher Thucydides of Athens said in 431 B.C. — still is true today, too.



Milk for Mi'lady — Milk hairdos, sporadically advocated by various beauty parlors, are now being advertised nationally by "Milk Wave Lit." We know there was a way to use up the surplus.

Household Hint — When everything else fails read the instructions.



To Make Men Free

Lesson for December 22, 1963

Bible Material: Luke 2:1-20; Galatians 3 through 4.
Devotional Reading: Luke 1:58-69.

A QUESTION that can be asked about every baby, but never answered, is: "Why was this baby born?"—meaning by "Why?" not the circumstances under which his parents met, his ancestors and so on, but rather: "What is going to be the main purpose in life for this infant? For what will he be remembered?" No one can answer that. The baby's mother knows, or thinks she knows; but how often mothers have



Dr. Foreman been disappointed!

The Baby Jesus had a God-given reason for being born. His mother had high hopes of him, too. She was sure he was born to be King. She was disappointed, but not as most mothers are. For instead of failing to come up to the height of her hopes, he grew far beyond them. He who—Mary sang in her heart—was to be King of Israel would be more, much more. He would be King of mankind. His very name (in Hebrew) means one who sets men free.

Free from law

The strange and wonderful thing about Jesus is that he is a person who though he died is not separated from us by his death. He can not only be remembered, He can be known. Those who do know Him, know from their own experience that He does set men free. A man begins to be a heart-Christian indeed when he goes beyond saying, Christ sets men free, to saying Christ has set ME free. Free from what? First of all, He set us free from the law. That sounds a little strange, doesn't it? We tend to regard lawless people as dangerous. What does this mean, to be saved from the law? What law? Well, Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians on that one point mostly. He got quite excited

over it. What Paul was driving at was this: All his life he had been a Pharisee, one of those proud people who were most proud of the way they kept the law of Moses which they took to be the very laws of God. But what bothered Paul was this: He knew God would be satisfied with nothing less than perfection, and he was sadly aware, as many Pharisees were not, how far short the best of men come to wholly pleasing God. So Paul tried and tried to be good, to follow the law to the letter. But the law became a kind of terrible pursuing monster to this man, threatening him with the thousand and one times he had forgotten or not done this or that.

Free from sin

Some people have thought that "freedom" means absolute freedom to do anything at all, to be as free to do any one of a million things as any other one. That is not it (and if you think about it, you don't want yourself or any one to be "free" like that). The freedom Christ was born to bring is freedom not only from the law as a slave-driver, but free from sin itself. Free from its power, its frightening power, free from its corruption, its weakening poison. Voices from the darkness that rime the life of man cry, "What you are, you must be; what you are and do is written in your blood. Sin you must, for time and circumstance hold you in chains" Against these dark voices comes the challenge of Christ: "The truth shall set you free."

Free from fear

Christ was born also to set men free from their worst fears. Not that Christians are reckless dare-devils, not that there is nothing fearful in this world, but free from the paralyzing dreads that haunt so many. A former Buddhist told this writer that all he could remember of his childhood was this: "There were eight hundred gods and I was afraid of them all." Simply to learn that there is one and only God, a God of love and power, who "has the whole world in his hands"—this comes as a great message of freedom to prisoners of despair. Men without fear of demons or of heathen gods are nevertheless afraid all the time of death, the "last enemy." Christ who himself conquered death sets men forever free from the fear of it.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Use Caution In Buying Hay

Two drought years in many parts of the county have made it necessary for some farmers to buy additional hay. In addition to getting hay of good color and quality, two other requirements are very important first, is the hay reasonably free of weeds and secondly, is it safe from the standpoint of too much spray material. What did the original producer use as a forage spray program? This may be difficult to determine but the milk producer is responsible to feed uncontaminated forage. Check thoroughly before buying.

To Get Farm Account Book

The new year is approaching and every farmer should be keeping an accurate set of farm records. The Penn State Farm Account Book is available at low cost and can be very useful. It is designed to correspond with the Internal Revenue Tax forms, which makes it easier to properly file the report at the end of each year. Good farm records are a "must" under modern farming practices.

To Exercise Sheep Flock

Winter management of the ewe flock requires daily outside exercise. Ewes that are confined will have more trouble at lambing time and will drop weaker lambs. Good legume hay is also strongly recommended at all times. A mineral mixture of 5 pounds steamed bonemeal, 5 pounds of ground limestone, 4 pounds loose salt, and 1 pound of Phenothiazine should be kept before the ewes at all times. Good winter management will

Correspondence Courses Bulletin Available

Flower gardeners looking for hints on plant growing should have The Pennsylvania State University's bulletin on correspondence courses in general agriculture and home economics. These courses are presented in an easy-to-read style and are available by mail. Write to Box 5000, University Park, Pennsylvania.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in the December 14 issue of Lancaster Farming that allipients of Keystone Degree winners would receive an honorary degree or citation. Only the parents of the Star Farmers will be so honored by the Keystone Association of Future Farmers of America.

Lancaster Farming Jack Owen, Editor
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