

From Where We Stand . . . How Long Has It Been Since You...!

Hold on there! Let's not rush pell-mell into this new year without sitting down and reflecting on the old one just a little.

We are not going to ask you to make any new resolutions. Everyone else will be doing that; and besides, you probably wouldn't keep them and then we would be a party to broken promises and we have enough trouble with our own conscience without having to worry about yours.

But we would like you to do a little "How long has it been — " type of thinking.

For instance—how long has it been since you called an old friend on the phone just to say, "Hello, how are you?"?

How long has it been since you paid someone a sincere compliment? I mean a sincere compliment—not the kind you use when you hope to gain something, but just a word of appreciation to someone who can be of no material gain to you.

How long has it been since you told your wife her hair-do looks nice?

How long has it been since you expressed appreciation and satisfaction with a job one of the kids has done?

How long has it been since you just sat down and did nothing? Just sat and stared. And how long before that did your conscience start to bother you when you just sat and stared for a few minutes?

How long since you had a good belly laugh? How long since you just let loose and roared at something funny without worrying if someone would think you were a square?

When did you last write a letter to the Editor on something you felt strongly about? How long has it been since you went directly to the source when you didn't agree with a written editorial?

How long since you read any literature deeper than Alley Oop or the T.V. Guide? Shakespeare is still just as fresh as he was a hundred years ago, and you can understand him much better now than you could in high school.

When did you last take time to savor the aroma of coffee or food before you bolted it down in the mad rush to get on with the business of this world before your neighbors beat you to it?

How long since you called Johnnie's or Suzie's teacher and told her how much you appreciate what she is trying to do for your children?

When did you last go to see for yourself what happens in the classroom? We like the story of the teacher who wrote a note to the parents of her students saying, "If you promise not to believe all your child tells you happens in school, I promise not to believe all he tells me happens at home."

How long has it been since you have earnestly and fervently said, "Thank you, God, for bringing me safely thus far on my journey through life"?

There is one more "how long" we

ought to consider.

How long till we have a big black smudge on the clean page of 1964?

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

Win One — Lose One

Here we are at the end of another year. A lot of words have flowed (crept, is probably a better word) from this old typewriter.

We wonder what we will think ten years hence when we read back over some of the stuff we thought was deathless prose at the moment. We wonder how some of the predictions we made so glibly will look from that distance of time.

Just this week we re-read a column clipped from a national poultry newspaper two years ago. We filed it at that time because we did not agree with the writer, and wanted to refer to it when developments warranted it. At the time we thought we might have to wait for five, or possibly ten, years to find out if he was on the right track.

Here are a few excerpts from that column. Judge for yourself. Remember, this was just two years ago.

"What do you think of the present surge to wire cages for layers in this state?" asked my caller.

"I remember when one of those 'big shots' from the USDA called me a 'stubborn, stiff-necked yankee' because I couldn't see a certain thing that he felt was of great value to the poultry breeders of the country, in the same light that he saw it. Maybe I'm still just as stiff-necked now about wire cages."

After about five hundred words telling how expensive cages are, how they will have to be replaced, and what a nuisance the discarded cages would be, he cited several widely separated cases of poultrymen going broke in the cage business and returning to birds on the floor.

Then he ended the column with this paragraph.

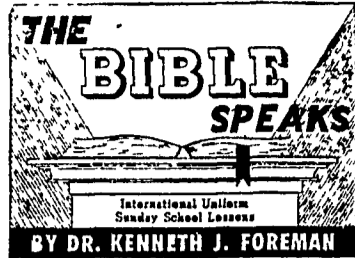
"As an afterthought, I just happened to remember that while my old friend is still a big shot at the USDA, the thing which he was so sure was a winner, and which I thought had a false bottom, is as dead as last year's hay."

Well, we know, two years later, that the cage layer business is not "as dead as last year's hay." In fact, it is one of the "lifest" segments of the whole business of farming. Cage layer houses are springing up like mushrooms all over the state and the nation. Cage layer businesses are making money and it appears that as more and more is learned about this method of handling birds and prospects are brighter.

Well, that is one we won, but we recall our first visit to a prototype milking parlor. We just couldn't see how the thing could ever become widely used.

So you win one and you lose one! We just wonder how it will look from 10 years hence. We will probably have to say again, "Well, we lost some, but we won some, too."

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



Freedom For What? Lesson for December 29, 1963

Bible Material: Mark 10:12-46; Galatians 5 and 6.
Devotional Reading: Romans 8:1-11.

FREEDOM IS a great word, a rousing word, one that in all times has thrilled the hearts and fascinated the minds of men. But it is also a misunderstood word. It is no more than half understood when people forget that freedom is both freedom from and freedom for. . . . Moses had his troubles with the Israelites on this point. All they could think of was getting out of Egypt. Freedom was their hope and dream.



Dr. Foreman But when they actually became free, when Egypt's chains were broken, those Israelites didn't care for their freedom after all. They actually wanted to go back to Egypt. They discovered that freedom meant work, danger, uncertainty, risk, and they preferred the protected assurances of slavery to the adventures of freedom.

Freedom from what?

Freedom can be misunderstood on the other side. This is particularly true of Christian living. All through the New Testament the reader seems to hear the bugles of freedom. Christians are reminded on page after page that freedom is good and that Christ came to set men free. But people then as now sometimes got a wrong idea about this. They supposed that they were now set free from obligations, they "wore no man's collar," so to speak. Paul (among others) sets us straight about this. He underscores something quite different. Christ was not born to set men free from obligation to each other nor to God. On the contrary, the Christian more and more recognizes the duties, services, and ways of help which he can render to other people.

The worst masters

Being free from ourselves, we

are free from those tyrants that so cruelly dominate the lives of those who have lost touch with God. Fear, for one thing. The man who by God's grace can forget himself, even for a while, has a vacation from fear. Fear of death, of disgrace, of failure, of unpopularity, of pain, of frustration. If you were asked, what is the greatest evil, the harshest cruelty, under which men suffer? What are the necessities to which men bow their heads—and their souls? You might well answer: Certainly two of the greatest enemies of peace and freedom in the individual life are fear and sin. When a man commits a sin, even one that hurts him personally, doesn't he say, nine times out of ten, "I couldn't help it"? When he stops to think why he fears death, doesn't he say again, "I can't help it"? That's simply admitting to being a slave. Fear and sin are hard masters, cruel, relentless and runous. But the Christian in their presence is a free man.

Freedom for what?

But knowing this, or thinking about it two weeks in a row, as we have tried to do, does not clear up all the trouble we have in understanding what freedom means. The New Testament lays equal stress on freedom-for, as on freedom-from. Paul puts it in a single sentence: "Through love be servants of one another." To use freedom selfishly is to misuse it. To use freedom selfishly is to go back into slavery to ourselves all over again. To serve others in love is not a rule, but like the "golden rule" (of which it is a twin) it is a guide to the traveler through this tangled world. To serve others is not to meddle in their affairs. To serve others does not mean to force helpfulness on them. Serving others grudgingly, enviously, is to miss the mark entirely. Serving in love is the right use of freedom.

In a harbor of a great seaport, two ships are free. Each is being pulled by tugs. A sudden burst of wind snaps the line that ties one ship to one of the tugs. The ship is free, but unprepared; and it lurches, crashing into nearby craft, spreading destruction. The other ship, at the right moment, casts off its lines and is free—free to sail under power to the ends of the earth. Which ship is the better illustration of Christian freedom?

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Manage The Ewe Flock

Sheep producers are reminded of the need of daily outside exercise for the ewe flock, in some cases the flock may have to be forced to walk by feeding hay or fodder in the far end of the pasture lot. Less lambing trouble and stronger lambs will result in this situation when exercise is a daily routine. Plenty of good legume hay for the ewes at all times is also very important. A mixture of phenothiazine and salt (1 to 14) will help prevent internal parasites.

To Topdress With Manure

There are many places for barnyard manure with next year's corn and tobacco ground usually getting the lion's share. How-



MAX SMITH

ever, new forage seedings (alfalfa or clover) will benefit from a light coating (6 to 8 tons per acre) during the late fall and early winter. Also, winter wheat will give greater yields when topdressed with manure. The straw manure will serve as a mulch to prevent frequent freezing and thawing as well as furnish some cover from icy winds without snow cover. Manure is usually rather high in nitrogen will help rapid growth in the spring.

To Be Alert For Foot Rot

Cattle and sheep producers should be on the alert for sore feet on their animals during the winter months. Sore feet are quite common in cattle feeding operations and even in some herds of dairy cattle. Wet, filthy conditions are often blamed for this trouble and for the spread of the infection to other ani-

mals. Infected animals should be separated and treated, in many cases the feet should be trimmed. Sore feet slow down the animals and reduce feed efficiency. Contact the local veterinarian for treatment.

Several species of wild horses existed in North America long before the Indians and white men came along.

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the average of two hands, one of Wrapper B's and one of Filler B's Awards will be made on a district basis, four in the county, and a sweep-stake award will go to the highest total score in the county.

Project books in both clubs will be scored at the same time.

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Lititz, Pa.
Phone - Lancaster
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Jack Owen, Editor

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