

# From Where We Stand . . .

## A Time For Realignment

Do you still make New Year's resolutions, or have you discontinued that perennial practice because you found that you never kept them anyway?

The start of a new year is an ideal time for taking a good look at ourselves, and deciding how we can improve. Many people think of New Year's resolutions as a complete rebuilding program, and consequently they set goals for themselves that are not only unrealistic, but overwhelming. Then they become discouraged when they find attainment of these goal impossible.

Perhaps in this space age in which we live it might be helpful to compare the realignment of our lives in the new year with the way that scientists make slight changes in the orbit of a space vehicle by triggering built-in correction rockets at pre-determined times. The firing of these rockets cause the space ship to change its direction slightly one way or the other so as to more perfectly attain its goal. Isn't this really what we hope to accomplish with our lives by our resolutions?

Granted, minor corrections should have been made all during the year as their need was indicated but psychologically, starting a new year has traditionally been the time when most attention was focused on this operation. If you are one who has some minor corrections to be made, as who is not, then we remind you that the time is now.

To assure a certain amount of success in this venture we pass on a couple of suggestions from the psychologists — those mysterious students of human behavior. They suggest that, most important, our resolutions must be realistic, within our power to accomplish. Secondly, they say that the resolutions should be specific rather than general. That way we can better measure our progress and know whether we are really accomplishing anything. Finally, they suggest that we start slowly with projects that are not overly difficult. In this way we are more likely to be successful, and this sense of accomplishment will provide a base of success upon which we can readily build greater accomplishments.

So that's the formula. An honest analysis of ourselves, a reexamination of our goals, a realistic set of resolutions, and a step-by-step program to-

ward becoming the sort of person we each really want to be.

We wish you a year of happiness and accomplishment. A year in which the fruits of your labors will be truly bountiful. And a year that will move us all closer to a complete understanding of ourselves and each other.

## Mental Obsolescence

We hear so much these days about automation it is possible we may believe that only our machines are becoming obsolete and are being replaced by more efficient ones. However, that is only part of the problem.

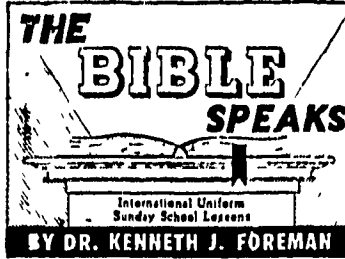
The head of the Extension Service at the University of Missouri recently told a group of extension workers that the biggest problem facing them today is mental obsolescence. He pointed out that there had been more changes in the world around us during the past twenty-five years than in all previous recorded history. He said further that the mind that fails to keep up to date with these changes quickly becomes obsolete.

And you know the man's right. Those people whose jobs have been automated out from under them by more efficient machines are generally taken care of by their industry or by the government, and are retrained for other jobs. But how about the person who is not thrown out of work by a machine? People like farmers, extension workers, and newspaper editors. In some ways our common problem is far worse, for rather than escaping to another, less-automated job we must stay where we are and master the dire changes that threaten to turn us out to pasture. Daily, we must prove that we can do our jobs more effectively than any machine.

The old saw about "what's the use of learning anything new; I don't use half of what I know now" has no place in our lives anymore. Such complacency is a thing of the past. As times change we must bend as the trees in the wind, or break. To do our jobs effectively in the future will require an open mind — one eager to know and understand this changing world, and to take the best of its new ideas and put them to work.

Anything less than an open-minded, all-out approach to life can only lead to obscurity. We can afford obsolete machines, but we cannot afford obsolete people.

What Do YOU Think?



## Strange Kingdom

Lesson for January 3, 1965

Background Scripture: Matthew 3.  
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40 1-11.

**HAVE YOU EVER** heard so much about a person you have never met, that it almost seems that you have met personally, after all? Let's suppose you have a friend — call him Bill — who in turn has a friend named John. In the course of a year or two Bill has told you so many stories about John that you feel you know him. You know how he thinks, how he acts; you can guess what Dr. Foreman he would do in an emergency; you may think so well of him that you want nothing better than to arrange to meet him. And yet Bill has never given you the whole story of John's life. What he has given you are living glimpses into the character of a real man.

The New Testament gospels are like that. Strictly speaking, the gospels do not give us the story of Jesus' life. What they do is to give us a number of short stories about him, a number of remarks he made. They tell us so much — every bit of it revealing — that we feel we know the vital facts about Jesus.

### Occupied country

Each of the four gospels puts together a different set of stories and reminiscences of Jesus; and each mosaic comes out a different (but not contradictory!) picture. The portrait in Matthew comes out showing Jesus, a child born "across the tracks" so to speak, a young man earning his living for years as a carpenter, being all the time a King. This was astonishing, and it would have astonished you, too, if you had been there. Jesus lived in what would nowadays be called an occupied country or territory — occupied by the military of a foreign nation, that is, Rome and the Romans were everywhere. Now the Romans had one Caesar

and that was enough. (In futuro years that was not enough, but that's another story.) The point is that every Jew in the place ground his teeth every time he thought of the hated Romans and their insolent soldiers. The question is, how could Jesus or any one else claim to be a King without getting entangled with the Romans?

### Great expectations

There were two reasons in particular why Jesus did not immediately get pounced on by the watchful Roman security police. One was that he did not at first lay claim to a throne, and when people called him Messiah (which meant something like King-Elect) he would vigorously hush them up. Another reason was that he lacked the things most pretenders to a throne would be expected to have, such as an army and a squadron of diplomats. But the real reason why it was so long before the Romans took notice of him was that he turned out to be so different, and his kingdom so different, from the king and the kingdom the people were looking for, that his own people, the Jews themselves, did not recognize him.

### Reality

What they got, or what they were offered, was something, Some One, far better than their greatest expectations; a king who would not only be the legal heir to David's throne, — which Jesus was — but one to whom "all authority in heaven and earth" had been given. They expected a Kingdom, right away, in which every evil which torments man would be destroyed, and right maintained by force. What they got, or what they were offered, was a kingdom of the heart, — a realm that might have to wait centuries to be fully established, yet one which could begin now — and does exist in the hearts of faithful people everywhere. The news of this kingdom is never expressed as a second-best, or as a disappointment; it is always good news, — for that is what "Gospel" means. It is the best news there is. The kingdom of Christ is as near to you as your next prayer; it is as powerful as the Spirit of God.

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## Go To Church Sunday

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

### To Do Farm Planning

Between crop seasons is a good time to plan ahead for the coming year. By using the farm records of the past several years it should be possible to determine the farm enterprises that have been the most successful. Good farm management requires that practices be done thoroughly and on schedule, careful planning of the materials and equipment needed at these times will make it possible to get the job done. We urge evaluation of records and practices in order to become more efficient and profitable.

### To Attend Farm Show Meetings

The State Farm Show is one of the major farm events in the eastern part of the country each winter. Thousands of people attend the show and many of them attend only to look at the exhibits and eat hot dogs and hamburgers. However, we'd like to point out the many educational meetings and events at the Show. We suggest that each farmer secure a copy of the Farm Show Program and attend one or more of the state-wide meetings in his particular line of endeavor. Many helpful suggestions and experiences are given at these sessions.

### To Eliminate Acid Soils

One of the oldest recommendations of any County Agent is to urge farmers to get their soil tested. For many years the purpose was to determine the acidity and to learn the amount of lime needed, according to our modern soil tests we note that nearly half of our fields or strips continue to need some lime in order to give top yields. We stress the importance of keeping the soils well limed to get maximum use of the heavier fertility program.

### To Confide in Research Work

One of the major contributions of any land-grant college or university is the experiment station and the many research projects being conducted for the benefit of farmers and the whole population. The goal is to learn whether or not any one variety or method is good and will it work for the average farmer. Research work costs money and takes time, many farmers cannot afford to do research work on their farms in finding whether or not a (Continued on Page 8)

## Meaning Of The Recreation Boom To Income Of County Farmers

PART 2

In Part 1 of this feature on Recreation as it related to Agriculture we said that it was sparked nationally by the rapidly expanding population in the U.S. the increasing amount of leisure time for Americans and the increased family income.

We pointed out that Congress had set the stage by

passage of the Food and Agriculture Act in 1962, which enabled us to apply multiple conservation principles to private lands, and to provide cost-sharing and credit to individual, organizations and groups in developing recreational facilities.

This week we will apply some of these principles to Lancaster County, and suggest how an interested farmer can get started in this recreation business as a cash crop.

A farmer prior to engaging in a recreation or tourist business should carefully consider the liability of injury occurring to an invitee on his premises. The possessor of real property is obligated by law to protect any visitor from harm while he is on the premises. There are several methods which may follow to insure against liability. First, a warning of dangerous conditions, exclusion of unwanted guests in corporation and liability insurance.

The use of liability insurance is a sure transfer of

risk to a professional risk bearer. The operator substitutes a known loss (the insurance premium) for the chance of a larger loss (the amount of an injury awarded). Although amounts vary from county to county, general farm liability policies do not give the protection needed for a recreation business. He needs a special policy, or could perhaps have a rider added to his general policy.

What sort of recreational activities could a farmer consider for Lancaster County? The greatest single drawing factor in the County is the Pennsylvania Dutch atmosphere. If a farmer from the number of license plates in the county in Spring, Pa. are especially Summer that tourists are coming in large numbers.

We discussed the farm vacation business in Lancaster County. So we won't discuss other types of recreation. It can be carried on in areas swimming or fishing ponds horseback riding shooting preserves and scenic tours, etc.

For the recreational farm in-



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