

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Are You Ready For A Day On The Tractor?

We received these eight items to check yourself to see if you are ready for a safe productive day of tractor operation. Thought we would pass them on.

Are you physically fit to operate your tractor safely? Are you rested and feeling OK, and not tired, sleepy, feeling "low" or taking strong medicines?

Can you give the job necessary attention to avoid an accident? Are you in a normal state of mind, and not worried, upset, tense or preoccupied?

Are you properly dressed for the weather? Clothing and shoes comfortable and in good repair?

Did you inspect equipment before starting to be sure it's in safe operating condition, reducing chance of sudden failure that could trigger an accident?

Are any physical impairments (poor eyesight, deafness, handicaps or those connected with advancing age) corrected or extra care taken when operating tractors to compensate for them?

Are younger drivers trained and instructed in safe tractor operating practices? Do you let them work alone only after you are satisfied they can handle tractors safely?

Do you keep small children off and away from farm machinery and never let them ride on a tractor or trailing vehicles?

Do you always operate your tractor and other farm machinery according to recommendations in the instruction manuals? Are you familiar with and follow safety suggestions in these manuals?

It would be a good thing to ask yourself these questions before starting a full day of plowing next spring. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

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### Spectre Of Centralization

Wherever you turn, the spectre of centralized authority is moving closer. Urban planners are now talking of a national land bank, which would empower the federal government to acquire land in and around cities and provide for planned development. The reason given for such a move is that as open land in and

around metropolitan centers becomes scarcer, public controls over its use must increase.

There is no denying that as the pressure of population grows and land becomes scarcer, the use of real estate in congested areas will be subject to more regulation. But, it would appear that this could be achieved without further impairing one of the most fundamental rights of a U.S. citizen and that is the right of land ownership. This right is symbolized by the old expression " . . . a man's home is his castle."

When the government begins to acquire land on a massive scale for development as the government thinks best, where is the process to stop? Moreover, the acquisition of land by the federal government around cities would cut off vital sources of tax revenue for local government.

A national land bank is the old story of government ownership all over again. The rights of private citizens are overridden, local independence is undermined and remaining taxpayers must take on a heavier load to make up the loss on another nonproductive government enterprise. There must be a better way to solve today's urban problems.

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### To Master The Rubber Band

First there was Zip Code and now the Post Office Department has added "snap" in its service by switching from twine to rubber bands for bundling mail.

Now when the Post Office Department makes a change, they don't leave anything to chance and as a result have produced Postal Item 0-1152 — a two-page folder on the life and habits of the rubber band — what it is, what it looks like, how to cope with it and, above all, how to master it.

(The specific rubber band in question, as you are surely wanting to know, is "band, rubber, natural, 2 1/4 inches long, 1/8-inch wide and oval in shape.")

What the elaborate instructions seem to boil down to is that to band a bundle you first snap a rubber band around the bundle of mail the long way, then snap another rubber band around the bundle the short way — and be constantly alert that the band doesn't snap back.

It's definitely encouraging to Occupants, Box Holders and Addressees to know that when their Post Office goes after progress, it goes after it to beat the band.

— Clinton (Mo.) Daily Democrat

### Across The Fence Row

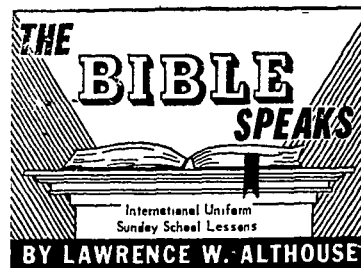
The secret of study is concentration; the secret of concentration is to be interested.

According to a recent United Press International release out of Madison, Wisconsin, "Who says University of Wisconsin Student Union patrons aren't healthy, clean-cut kids? The union says it sells about 190 gallons of beer a week to students — and 1,400 gallons of milk."

### Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast calls for temperatures to average above normal with the high reading in the mid 30's to upper 40's. Low readings are expected to be in the 20 to 30 range, with little day to day change. Normal temperature for the period is high 39, low 23.

Precipitation may total one-fourth inch water equivalent, occurring as showers or snow about Sunday.



### A NEW YOU!

Lesson for January 21, 1968

Background Scriptures: John 2:13 through 3:36.  
Devotional Reading: John 3:16-21.

People who are evasive in their answers are annoying. We all know the type of person who, when asked what time they must go, reply with a vague "In a while." There are also those who evade our questions by adroitly changing the subject.



Rev. Althouse

There are quite a few times in the Gospel of John when Jesus seems to be that kind of person. In John 3 when Nicodemus comes to Jesus one evening, the Pharisee expresses his admiration for the signs and wonders Jesus has performed. Jesus, however, seems to change the subject: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." But Jesus, Nicodemus is talking about your signs and wonders, not the kingdom of God!

#### Beyond The Signs

If we examine the reply of Jesus, however, we find that in fact Jesus has not changed the subject. Actually, he has moved to the very heart of it, saying in effect: You have seen the signs, but I am asking you to look beyond the signs and see what they are pointing to, the kingdom of God; if you would see that, you must be willing to be made a new person. Anyone with eyes can see the signs, but the miracles point to themselves, but to the kingdom. To see the kingdom takes more than a few minor adjustments; it requires rebirth.

The words which Jesus uses with Nicodemus mean literally "born from above." Thus the new birth is not something that a man can accomplish by himself. It is given to him by God. Like grace, it is a gift, an unmerited gift. As at Cana the water was turned to wine, so God can transform our

old lives so completely that we become, in effect, new persons.

Nicodemus reacts the way many of us would: he is so taken aback by the bluntness of Jesus' reply that he stalls for time by pretending not to have understood Jesus. "Do you mean that a man must be born of his mother two times?" he asks. Jesus was accustomed to this kind of evasion. Patiently he explains that he was not speaking of physical rebirth, but of spiritual. Nicodemus needed to be reborn within his spirit. He needed to let Christ make of him a new person.

#### Who, Me?

We have no idea how Nicodemus reacted to all this; John doesn't tell us. Yet we can imagine that he was at least surprised, if not shocked. Nicodemus should become a new person, Jesus had said. But didn't Jesus realize that Nicodemus was already a very religious, a most respectable man? He was a Pharisee and thus he observed the law with an almost fanatic devotion. Who could ever criticize this man's behavior or public actions?

Jesus was not talking about what a man might appear to be. He looked beyond a person's actions and behavior to the reality of his inner motivations. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit", (John 3:6 RSV). In other words, even if a second physical birth were possible, that would not bring forth a reborn spirit. It is the inner self which needs to be made new.

Even Nicodemus, the respected, pious Pharisee, needed to become a new person. And you, if God were to change you today, where would he start? If we are drunkards, thieves, murderers, or adulterers, it is easy to see where the new life in Christ needs to be made evident. But if we live quiet, respectable lives, if we have been brought up in the church and continue as a member, the need to be reborn within is no less imperative. In fact, Jesus found that the respectable, pious people were often the ones most resistant to his transforming powers. Thus, they were often the ones who needed it most.

Is there a need for a new you?

(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)

#### ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY



### NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

#### To Meet Market Demands

The food producer must continue to grow farm commodities that are in demand by both the processor and the consumer. Actually, it's the consumer who has the most to say about it. Over-finished meat animals or low quality items of any kind bring less money but require the same high production costs. A good knowledge of what the consumer wants should be helpful.

#### To Control Livestock Parasites

Even the animals at State Show reflect the problem of external parasite control. No

doubt the problem is greater among herds not showing. Producers are urged to eliminate both external and internal parasites for the most profit.

#### To Buy Legume Seeds

Time is passing rapidly and in another four to six weeks clover and alfalfa growers will be broadcasting seed in winter wheat. That is, if a seeding is to be made in winter grain in order to get the variety and quality needed, growers are urged to get their needs soon. Certified seed of adapted varieties will give greater returns for capital, labor, and management.

### For Full Market Reports Read LANCASTER FARMING

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