

# From Where We Stand . . .

## Get On With The Plowing

The planets move in their courses with wonderful precision. Thus, while it is impossible to render more than an educated guess on what may occur in the affairs of man on the morrow, it may be said with absolute certainty that a happy natural occurrence will take place on March 20 — Spring will arrive. On that day, the rhythm of nature will enter another cycle. Subtle changes will take place. The sun will rise earlier and will feel warmer on your back. Sunset will be appreciably later each day. New freshness will come on the land.

As winter fades and spring mellows into full bloom, the thoughts of many of us farmers turns toward plowing. What is greater than the fresh aroma of newly plowed ground or the feeling of accomplishment as you leave furrow after furrow behind you on your way through the field turning last year's remains under to form a new bed for this year's seeds.

You have to be a farmer to appreciate it, but beside spring bringing out young men's fancies as the poet wrote, it also brings out a compelling urge to get on with the plowing.

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

## Don't Be "The Other Fellow"

Home medicine cabinets and utility room shelves have become stockpiles of sophisticated drugs and chemicals — many of them potentially dangerous. Hardly a day goes by but what we read of the accidental misuse of poisonous substances. Usually children are the victims. The medical profession, through its principal spokesman the American Medical Association, conducts a ceaseless education campaign to awaken everyone to the latent perils of the family medicine cabinet. It repeatedly warns against the hazards of unlabeled bottles and the danger of leaving drugs or medicines — even aspirin — within reach of children.

The day when the main medicine shelf was smelling gone. The bathroom of the a has become a miniature pharmacy. The kitchen and the utility room with sterilizing agents, detergents and chemicals for every domestic need.

Today's drugs and chemicals made life more wholesome but the price of carelessness. That is why we should pay attention to National Poison Prevention Week to be observed this year from

23. This week of educational effort was set aside originally by presidential proclamation. Its purpose is, "To bring to the attention of the American people the hazards of misusing medicines and the common household products and how to cope with this problem."

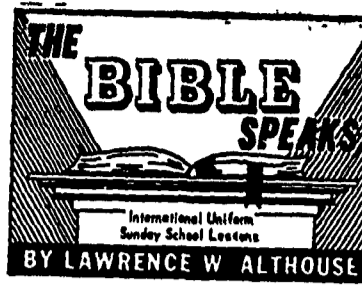
The message of National Poison Prevention Week is aimed at all of us — with no exceptions. Because when accident or tragedy strikes and we find that we have suddenly become "the other fellow," it is too late.

## Minimum Wage Increases

Very shortly, there will be an increase in unemployment among marginal, unskilled workers. The rise in unemployment among these groups can be expected to take place as the new rate of \$1.60-an-hour goes into effect under the federal wage and hour law.

Mr. William L. White, editor of the Emporia, Kansas, Gazette predicts that the new minimum will produce new inflationary pressures and more unemployment among unskilled youths. He pointed out that before the last minimum wage increase of \$1.40-an-hour went into effect, more than a year ago, the largest category of unemployed in the nation was the teen-age Negro. "The next jump," he added, "can only mean a corresponding jump in the unemployment rate of low-skilled labor — including teen-age Negroes — and more of them hopelessly rotting on relief." Editor White's criticism of the minimum-wage law is reinforced by the conclusions of economist Milton Friedman. He wrote in Newsweek that prior to 1956, unemployment among Negro boys in the 14 to 19 age group was about the same as among white boys — 8 per cent of the total. As the federal minimum wage rate was steadily hiked to higher levels, "... unemployment among Negro boys jumped to 24 per cent, and among white boys to 14 per cent."

One of the fields of employment for part-time and unskilled workers has been in



## THE PRESENCE

Lesson for March 17, 1968

Background Scriptures: John 14.  
Devotional Readings: John 16:7-15.

**BIRD-IN-HAND** is the name of a quaint little Pennsylvania Dutch (German) town not far from where this writer lives. The name of the town is a reminder of the old proverb: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."



Rev. Althouse

It is a kind of common-sense philosophy and quite descriptive of the dynamics of much human nature: a person will rarely give up something good for the promise of something better. This is why the settlers always outnumber the explorers. "I'll stick with what I've got" is the theme song of the majority of people.

### Someone Else?

We can imagine, then, the feelings of Jesus' disciples on what proved to be his last night before Calvary. They had taken, it had seemed, a tremendous risk in leaving behind their homes, their families, their vocations, and their security when they answered his call to "Follow me!" And now he was saying that he would soon leave them! Someone else was going to be sent to take his place.

In their three exciting years together, they had become dependent upon him. Even that evening they had unintentionally demonstrated once again that they were not ready to "go it alone." Nevertheless, said Jesus: "the Father will give you another Counselor" (John 14:16).

He had to help them understand that it was really best that he go from them. For one thing, his going would be part of fulfilling the Father's will, completing the mission he had been given. Furthermore, the "Counselor" who would be sent in his place would be able to do even more than Jesus had been able to accomplish during the past three years. The Counselor "will teach

you all things" and "be with you for ever" (John 14).

### The Different Way

The promise sounded fine, but it was still Jesus whom they wanted, not someone else: a Messiah in the hand was worth two Counselors to come. But they had not understood: when the "Counselor" came, they would not lose Jesus; instead they would have him more surely than ever before. He would be with them in a different way now, no longer in the body, but as Spirit. Repeatedly he assured them: "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you . . . but you will see me . . . In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, . . . and I in you . . . and I will love him and manifest myself to him . . ." (John 14:18-21 RSV).

Now there would be no limitations on his presence. In his earthly body he had been limited in time and space; he could be at only one place at a time. But now he would no longer be limited as a man is. Now he would be available to all who believe in him and are receptive to his spirit. Thus, as he was later to put it: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you" (John 16:7 RSV).

### Our Advantage

It is common for many of us to wish that we could share with the disciples their privilege of knowing Jesus in the flesh. We may feel disadvantaged by comparison. Our eyes never behold him, our ears never hear his voice, our bodies never feel the healing touch of his corporeal hand — we think! How much easier it would be to believe with all one's heart, to live triumphantly and serve him faithfully — it seems!

Yet it was Jesus himself who said: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29 RSV). This may seem strange to us and hard to understand, but those today who experience the presence of Christ in the Holy Spirit have a relationship no less vital than that which was the privilege of his first followers.

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## TRY A CLASSIFIED AD!



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

**To Protect Pigs . . .**  
Pigs under 3 weeks of age and sows within a few weeks of farrowing should be protected from harlings and blackbirds in order to prevent infectious diseases, these birds are problems on many farms and about many towns and villages; health authorities have traced the spread of Transmissible Gastro Enteritis to these wild birds. Prevention is the best practice.

**To Add Extra Nitrogen . . .**  
Crops to be grown this year on land where heavy amounts of corn stover are to be plowed down, should receive at least 25 to 30 pounds of extra nitrogen per acre, this nitrogen will help hasten the decomposition of the fodder and will furnish nitrogen during the rotting process.

Without this extra nitrogen the crop will be slowed down or stunted during this decomposing period.

**To Practice Safety . . .**  
According to the calendar, field work will soon be starting and many pieces of farm machinery will be put into action. Farmers are urged to stress safety to all of their machinery operators. Safety shields and guards should be kept in place as directed by the manufacturer. The reaction to safety suggestions is always rather negative because most farmers feel it will not happen to them, we stress the importance of safety measures to prevent the loss of life or parts of the body; don't wait until a serious accident brings it closer to home.