

From Where We Stand . . .

A Happy And Prosperous 1969

That time of year is here again, when inventory is taken of the past year's joys and frustrations. We doubt anyone has had all joys or all sorrows during 1968. Life usually affords both to provide the daily conflicts that add to personal maturity.

For you, maybe that prize cow of your favorite breed had the special heifer calf you had hoped for. Or you may have won 1st place with your steer at one of the county fairs.

Maybe, your sow had 13 little pigs or you broke the 200 bushel-per-acre barrier with your best corn seed variety.

On the other hand, you probably had some problems — little ones or those big enough to call catastrophes. It could have been blight, hail or marketing problems. It might have been sickness or an accident.

Regardless of what happened, we would hope we have learned something valuable that can be used to advantage in the year ahead. And as we approach the new year coming next Wednesday, we would wish the new year to bring the best to you and yours. Or to say it another way, we from the staff of Lancaster Farming wish each of you our 5,300 subscribers and their families and friends a happy and prosperous 1969.

Strangers In Paradise

After the consumer strikes, the National Association of Food Chains, in an effort to develop better understanding between consumers and supermarkets, held a number of Consumer Dialogues all over the country and gave shopping housewives an opportunity to become better acquainted with the nation's food retailers from top executives down. The Dialogues were credited with opening a new era in consumer-retailer relations.

In reviewing results of the Dialogues, Mr. Clarence G. Adamy, president of the National Association of Food Chains, points out that reminding consumers "food is a bargain" is not enough. Nor is it enough to remind consumers that food takes but 18 per cent of disposable income, when as far as the housewife is concerned, it appears to take 90 per cent or more after rent, car payments and other bills. Also, the Dialogues indicated that many of the younger consumers are what amount to "strangers in paradise" when they visit a modern complex supermarket. The task of food retailers is to "re-humanize" their stores, as well as to develop cost-cutting efficiencies and wider

use of computers in order that store personnel may spend more time with shoppers.

Judging by Mr. Adamy's remarks, the evolution of mass distribution in the food industry will continue at an accelerated pace. And the emphasis will be on acquainting the stranger in paradise — the consumer — with the fact that food really is a bargain, and that retailers are anxious to help her take the fullest advantage of that bargain.

Seedbed Of Disrespect

A cynical disrespect for the law is shown at every level of society. We can see it in the littered campgrounds, in the riots in the cities and on the campuses, as well as in the lower standards of conduct found in some business and labor circles. It may well be that disrespect for the law stems in part from the mechanics of its application. Certainly it didn't help the stature of the law a few years ago when in the tragic aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination, the Jack Ruby trial turned into a dragged out side show of legal shenanigans that was interrupted only by the death of Ruby himself. Time after time, the ritual of the legal ceremony appears to become an end in itself, as well as a seedbed of disrespect. Hapless victims of the legal process have little to look forward to, win or lose, except financial and mental exhaustion.

A United Press International news release recently noted that the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused murderer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was expected to be delayed. In this case, involving the assassination of a presidential candidate, the legalistic ritual is barely getting warmed up months after the crime was committed. The accused is young and apparently not dying of cancer, so the prospects of a costly and exhausting legal sideshow are excellent — irrespective of the impact on public sensibilities. It is just such spectacles, witnessed by laymen who do not fully appreciate the fine points of the law and the peculiar ethics of some lawyers, that encourage disrespect for law itself.

Across The Fence Row

This is the prayer offered by astronaut Frank Borman as Apollo 8 whirled around the moon on Christmas Eve. Borman is a lay reader at St. Christopher Episcopal Church, League City, Texas.

"Give us, O God, the vision which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure.

"Give us the faith to trust the goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

"Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each of us can do to set forward the coming day of universal peace."

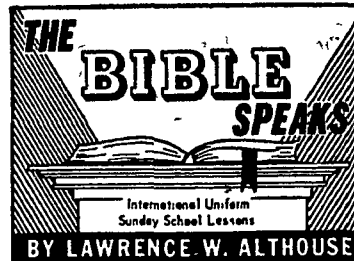
The secret of study is concentration; the secret of concentration is to be interested.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast calls for temperatures to average below normal with daytime highs in the upper 20's north to upper 30's in the south. Overnight lows are to be in the teens to mid 20's. Generally cold through the period with little day to day change.

Precipitation may total greater than one-half inch water equivalent occurring as rain Saturday; snow flurries in the mountains Sunday and again as rain or snow the middle of next week.



THE INVITATION

Lesson for December 29, 1968

Background Scripture: Revelation 21 through 22.
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 13.

"What value could there possibly be in studying a bunch of ancient visions?" This is often the reaction with which people respond to Revelation. After all, they reason these visions deal with the distant future and we are busy enough with just the present!



Rev. Althouse future. For example, how would you answer these questions:

1. Will our world go on and on unendingly, or will it someday be brought to some kind of close?
2. In what direction is today's world traveling? Is it getting "better," getting "worse," or just staying the same?
3. Will Christianity be completely vindicated at some point in history? Will "good" really triumph over evil?
4. Will there be a day of reckoning for each of us?

Behind the vision

These questions are important, for the lives we live now in the present are greatly dependent upon our view of the future. For example, if what the church teaches about the eventual vindication of God's will and purpose is not really true, then why should anyone try to live by the Christian faith? There would be no purpose.

That is why, even though they were recorded almost two thousand years ago, these visions are important and relevant to us. We must remember, however, that the important factor in these visions is the message behind the symbols, not the pictorial details of the visions themselves. The writer of Revelation uses a kind of psychedelic imagery to communicate his experience, not the

language of the scientist or historian.

For one thing, his vision tells us that the world as we know it will eventually pass away. In its place there will be a world newly created by God. Many of his contemporaries believed that when the kingdom of God came the world would be changed and made better. But John is saying that the world will not be changed, but replaced. The fulfillment of God's plan goes beyond this world of time.

A new creation

This view is at variance with much of our contemporary expectations too. Many people today assume that the world is "getting better every day in every way," as though progress is automatic, guaranteed. John, however, sharply disagrees with that view. The world would not simply evolve to perfection, he said, but the new world would come only as a new creation by God.

John also proclaims Christ as the "Alpha" and the "Omega." These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, indicating, as he says, "the beginning and the end." (Revelation 21:6) Actually, Alpha means more than just "the starting point," it means the source. God is the source from which the world and everything in it has come. Similarly, the word Omega is not just "the stopping point," but the goal. God is thus the goal toward which everything moves.

He who conquers

The Christian with whom John shares his hope is to regard himself, not as a victim, but as a conqueror. "He who conquers" (Revelation 21:7) refers to the faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, particularly those who must suffer for their faith. Rather than being conquered by their foes, they will resist the temptations of despair and be vindicated by God. Unfortunately, there are also those who will not "conquer," who, despairing of the present and the future, join the forces of evil rather than fight against them.

This, then, is the vision of the future which John shares with us in order to change and mold our present. It is a challenge to keep the faith. It is also an invitation to draw strength from the future: "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'."

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Get Farmers Tax Guide
The 1969 edition of the Farmer's Tax Guide is out and available from the Internal Revenue Office or from our Extension office. This publication should be of great help to all farmers and to those people working with farmers filing their 1968 income tax returns.

To Save That Christmas Tree
Folks using a natural Christmas Tree may continue to get some benefit from the tree after it is removed from the home. The tree itself may be used as a windbreak for a smaller broadleaf evergreen bush such as holly or azalea. The branches may be cut off and used as a ground

mulch around or over shrubs and bulbs. Spare the tree and make the investment perform two jobs this winter.

To Prepare Farm Show Exhibits

The 1969 Pennsylvania State Farm Show opens in two weeks. All exhibitors are urged to secure a Premium List and become acquainted with all of the rules and regulations. The entry deadlines differ between the various departments. Livestock exhibitors should be getting their animals prepared to meet the strict health regulations. Premium Lists are available at the Farm Show office or here at our Extension office.