

## Christmas Day

This Christmas Season, 1972, the mystery and magic of Christmas night are very real as hundreds of millions of people in small countries and great nations across the breadth of the world join hands in the eternal wish of peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

In this day of instant communications, flashing in words and pictures the sometimes confusing kaleidoscope of world events, it seems appropriate to give thanks for one gift that has preserved the humanity and the hard-won, accumulated knowledge of man through thousands of years—the gift of the written word. In countless languages, the written word has spanned the whole surface of the Earth making knowledge of God and the teachings of Christ life-long, everyday companions of men and women everywhere. Through the written word all

men know the story of Christmas. These words endure to be read and reread again and again. How else could the story of Tiny Tim and the name of Charles Dickens have become synonymous with the Spirit of Christmas?

Countless millions of children have listened in breathless wonder as their parents read the fantasy-conjuring words of "The Night Before Christmas" - the reindeer, the fur-trimmed red suit and the jolly cry of, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!" These words, written in 1823 by an American minister and poet, Clement C. Moore, are here today as part of the living legend of Christmas. So, let's give thanks for the written word. Its power has preserved the Spirit of Christmas, and its wisdom may yet save mankind from his own folly.

## Capitalistic Breadbasket

It now turns out that only the U.S. can produce the agricultural abundance that will give Soviet citizens the higher food production that Soviet leaders have promised. According to late reports, even U.S. help may fall short of staving off a shortage in Russian food supplies. It is said that the Soviet Union is suffering the worst farm crisis since 1963. The grain harvest is likely to fall 30 million tons short of planned production. This means less bread, less feed for livestock and less meat.

Ironically, American agriculture is the epitome of capitalism. U.S. farmers are a working demonstration of the highest principles of the capitalistic society. They

are independent, and they own their own homes and land. Their success hinges upon private initiative in the application of the latest agricultural techniques flowing from the halls of science, industry and chemical laboratories. All of these are attributes of a democratic society, where freedom of action and freedom of inquiry flourish to the maximum extent.

This capitalistic system - the antithesis of communism - damned abroad and scorned at home by pseudo intellectuals has now become the world's breadbasket. And the American farmer, the most capitalistic of all capitalists, must bear the brunt of the burden of feeding a good share of the world.

## Like It Is

There is a professed fondness nowadays for "telling it like it is". Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia has done just that in summing up for the record the history of federal government spending over a 20-year period. According to a table he prepared, the receipts of the federal government in 1954 were \$62.8 billion, outlays were \$65.9 billion - leaving a deficit of \$3.1 billion. Interest on the federal debt in that year was \$6.4 billion. Senator Byrd traced the trend of rising spending and deficits and the soaring interest charge on

the public debt down through the estimate for 1973. He reveals that fiscal 1973 is expected to show government receipts of \$152.6 billion. Spending is foreseen as reaching \$190.4 billion leaving a deficit of \$37.8 billion. Interest charges on the public debt are estimated to total \$22.7 billion.

We need public officials who, even in an election year, draw the line at approving ever bigger government spending programs that hit all of us with more taxes or more inflation.

## Grassroots Opinions

LOUISVILLE, OHIO, HERALD: "A court in Portland, Oregon, we understand, has come up with a new and unique way of handling offenders in drunk driving cases. Culprits are given their choice of punishment - pay a fine, go to jail, or drop in for a daily dose of a drug called Antabuse. Anyone taking a drink of alcohol following a dose of Antabuse is said to be come quite ill. On the basis of early results, this unusual treatment seems to have all the makings of a first-class deterrent to drinking drivers and driving drinkers - for obvious reasons if they already have Antabuse in them. Some 100 persons have become 'subjects' in this phase of a federally-financed Alcohol Action Program and only one violator has turned up as a repeater."

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AURORA, NEBR., NEWS-REGISTER: "There are some people in this world who not only demand something for nothing, but they want it gift wrapped."

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STAYTON, ORE., MAIL: "The trouble with getting older is that you learn more. And the trouble with that is the con-

sequent loss of illusions. The most recently shattered concerns 'special delivery' service by the post office, and what shatters our previously-held belief about it is an announcement that **NOW** the postal service is going to give it special handling (which in our innocence we had thought came with the extra postage charged for all these years). 'Special delivery letters and parcels in the entire U.S. Postal Service's Western Region will now be enclosed in transparent plastic bags imprinted with the word "Speedy" in large green letters. This new identification will prevent special delivery pieces from being overlooked or intermixed with regular first-class mail at receiving stations,' says the announcement."

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HOUGHTON, MICH., MINING GAZETTE: "Today's volunteer is not a bored housewife with time on her hands. Neither is she 'lady bountiful' with unlimited time and funds. Today's volunteer is someone - man, woman or child - who recognizes that this is the only world available, and if it is to be a better world, it's everyone's responsibility."

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851



### To Observe Hogs Carefully

Hog Cholera is on the rage again and is close enough to be of major concern. This dreaded disease of swine needs the attention of everyone if we are to keep it from spreading into a major disaster. Producers are urged to be very careful in their management and not give any chance for the infection to be brought home to the herd. The animals should be observed several times a day and if any of them seem to be "slow" by not eating, drinking, or moving with the others, they should be checked by the local veterinarian. Prompt discovery and action could save many hogs and thousands of dollars. Don't take the hog cholera threat lightly.

### To Cook Garbage for Hogs

One of the sources of infection of hog cholera to other hogs is the eating of raw garbage; this has been the source of trouble many times in the history of the disease. All hog producers, regardless of how large or small, should not feed garbage to hogs until after it has been cooked for at least 30 minutes. Raw garbage is dangerous for hogs and most other kinds of livestock. The recent outbreak of cholera in Cumberland County is believed to have come from hogs eating uncooked offal from a slaughterhouse.

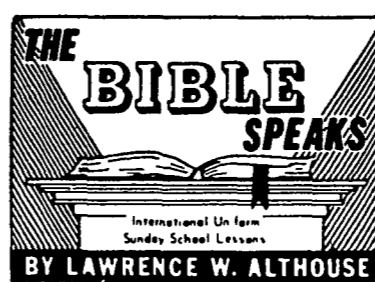
### To Provide Salt and Minerals

All types of livestock should have free access to both salt and minerals in separate compartments. We often get the question of why do animals eat soil or chew trees and board fences? In some cases this habit is performed with free access to these ingredients; however, in most cases there is something lacking in the ration when they start chewing. Loose salt should be provided separately from the mineral mixture; both should be kept under roof and out of the weather. Even though some of the salt and minerals are mixed into the grain ration, free access to both is still recommended. Salt encourages appetite and water consumption, and minerals aid digestive processes and supplies needed calcium, phosphorus, etc.

### To Be Careful of

#### Over-Loading Electric Circuits

The holiday season is the dangerous time of connecting too many lights and decorations to the electric outlets. Also, in barns and buildings the winter weather requires more heaters and machines to do the barn chores. If lights flicker when motors start, or if the fuses burn out frequently, these are signs of too much of a load on existing electric lines. Electricians or local power official should be consulted. Over-loaded circuits are fire hazards.



### GUARANTEE

Lesson for December 17, 1972

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 20  
through 21, 37 through 38; 39:15-18  
Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-12.

What have I done to deserve this?

Few questions have come to me as a Pastor more than this. From hospital beds, prison cells, and broken homes comes this agonizing cry. They are persons in sickness and in trouble and they cannot understand how God could have allowed them to be vulnerable to suffering. I try to be a good Christian, and this is what I get for it!"



Rev. Althouse

#### The false expectation

The problem I face as a Pastor is their wrong expectations. Somehow, somewhere they have gotten the idea that the reward for being a Christian is some kind of guarantee against hardship and suffering. The motto, "Live right and things will go right!", sums it up nicely for these people.

Thus, when trouble of some kind comes to them, these people must assume, either that they have not been living right, or that God has broken his promise. Since they can seldom accept the idea that they have not been "living right," they have nothing left than to assume that God welches on his promises.

The fact is, however, that God never makes us that promise. He never assures us that if we live good lives no harm will come near us. Many of God's great spokesmen and leaders experienced much hardship and suffering. Their righteousness and obedience to God did not exempt them from the difficulties of life.

#### Especially if you obey

Actually, if there is any guarantee, all it is that if one is obedient to God and tries to live a righteous life, the chances of facing suffering or hardship are even greater! That seems a preposterous idea until we think back over the lives of many of the Bible's leading figures.

Nowhere is this more evident, with one exception, then in the ministry of the prophet of Jeremiah. Called by God to bring messages of warning to the people, Jeremiah suffered greatly for his prophecies. Of course, we can understand why God's messages through Jeremiah were not popular with the people: "He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live; he shall have his life as a prize of war, and live" (38:2b). No wonder people are angry: this Jeremiah is advising people to surrender to the enemy. He is a traitor!

God's prophets have often been greeted as traitors and they have often suffered greatly, not despite their faithfulness, but because of it. This, if any, is the guarantee given to those to those who are obedient to God. The real reward is given later.

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