

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Counting our blessings

I've always had a high level of respect for agriculture... and that is probably something which has grown during the past 29 months that I have been off the farm. Viewing farming from within the barnyard and hayfield and now from across the fence gives me a more complete and appreciative picture which is somehow missed otherwise. I'm proud of my farm background and hope to remain close to agriculture for all of my life.

Farmers in Pennsylvania — if not all of America — seem to be especially fortunate with their blessings. Granted, things don't always go as smoothly as we'd like, but for the most part we're surrounded by good fortune. Most other areas on the globe are not as rich in their resources.

Take, for example, the weather. It's not often that we experience a severe drought in this area, and much of the soil is such that a few weeks of no rain will not be noticeably detrimental. And as all farmers are aware, the weather is the most important single factor to make the crops grow and keep the cows fed.

In much of Europe, this year, a severe drought has caused a catastrophe. Due to their location, size, and population density, it hurts them worse than it would have hurt the United States. Some parts of this nation also experienced an unfavorable growing season this year and it will hurt those who are directly affected, but it's not causing a national shortage of any kind, like is developing in England.

Due to its vast amounts of good land stretching from ocean to ocean in a favorable climatic belt, the United States can produce food for all of its people and millions more around the world.

Our blessings don't stop with favorable weather and good soil.

This country's industrial might has allowed it to mechanize like no other country on Earth. We've become more efficient, more productive. Most any farm can be cited as an example of that. Just look at the equipment in

the barn or the fancy machinery in the field.

By contrast, look at Russian agriculture, for example. An article in the latest issue of *U.S. News and World Report* describes what a group of American 4-H'ers found over there. In short, they announced upon returning here, that the Russians are so inefficient that you have to see it to believe it.

There's another blessing to be counted here, in comparison to Russia, the kingpin among communist nations. It is true that the giant Asian nation is not as fortunate as we are in terms of soil and climate, but even more noteworthy than that is the lack of freedom and liberty. The Soviet government has its fingers in everything; free enterprise and private ownership of individual farms is practically unheard of; and decisions are made by dictatorial means with no regard to specific adaptability.

We might complain in this country, but our rights and privileges here are a far cry from what the Soviet farmers have to put up with. Chalk that one up as a special blessing.

American farmers have had the freedom to do as they please for the most part, which has given them incentive and allowed them to be productive. That makes a big difference in any business.

Few spots on Earth have the combinations of blessings which America has — good climate, productive soil, the right to work in what one likes best with only few restrictions as to how, plenty of minerals and fuel for the production of machinery, good institutions for research and engineering, and much more.

In looking around at our good fortune and productivity, praise goes to not just ourselves, but to the Creator who put it all together in the first place.

And it's up to us to live and work in such a way to keep these blessings with us for future generations.

Background Scripture:
Romans 4:1-25; Galatians 3:19 through 4:7.

Devotional Reading:
Romans 3:21-31.

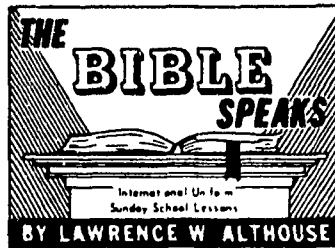
In his search to find a meaningful way of helping followers of Jesus Christ to understand the true nature of their relationship through the Gospel, Paul turned to the analogy of "the heir."

Inheritance was something understood by everyone in his day. Even slaves knew the meaning of being an heir and coveted that relationship that was almost always beyond their grasp.

Under the custodian

For one thing, they knew that an heir who had not yet attained legal maturity was under someone's custodianship. Thus a youth who would some day inherit both rank and possessions would nevertheless be under the custodial care of someone until of legal age. Even if the person of rank and property were to die while the heir was still under legal age, there would be a custodian for the youthful heir.

Paul used this analogy to try to explain the place and purpose of religious law in the life of the Christian. In our spiritual immaturity, the religious law has a function



THE HEIR

Lesson for September 12, 1976

in our lives. It helps to shape and control us while we are yet spiritually immature. But when through the Gospel of Jesus Christ we attain spiritual maturity, then we no longer have a need for the guardian. We discard it, not because it is worthless or wrong, but because we have gone beyond it.

Secondly, it must be apparent that an inheritance is always a gift. Even the legal rights of the heir are his or hers only because that inheritance has been given, not earned. No one ever works themselves into an inheritance. It is always the result of grace.

So, Paul said, it is with us. We are heirs, not because we deserve to be, but because God in his grace has given us our inheritance. If some day

you were to be informed that you had inherited a large estate from a distant, unknown relative, you would regard it as a marvelous windfall. But how much more wonderful is the inheritance we receive from God!

Heirs by adoption

One may become an heir in one of two ways. Either we may be born to our inheritance or we may be adopted. Regardless, the inheritance is no less real and no less ours. In a sense, we are all God's "sons by adoption." God sent his natural Son, says Paul, "so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:5).

In this adoption there is strict equality of relationship and rank. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (3:28). There are no first or second class heirs: "...if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise" (3:29).

The glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be found not only in that he was God's Son, but that, as Paul puts it, "In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith...and if a son then an heir!"



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
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TO ACCEPT LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY

For many years I have suggested that more farmers should become active in local government committees and boards. This is still needed in order to get good, sound agricultural thinking into some of the regulations. When farmers refrain from being active in these decisions, then non-farm folks will be making the regulations for agriculture. This might be all right in some cases, but in others the outcome might be unpractical and not for the best interests of agriculture. Many farmers in this county should make good local officials and we urge them to become active and help make major decisions.

TO PREPARE FOR FALL GRAINS

The seeding of winter oats, barley, and wheat will happen in the next month; all of these are adapted to this part of the state and will do good depending upon weather conditions. In southeastern Pennsylvania

winter oats should be seeded about the middle of September on well drained ground; winter barley goes into the ground late September or early October, and winter wheat may be seeded anytime in October. Hessian Fly susceptible varieties should not be sowed until after October 10, or a killing frost. In most cases only a phosphorus-potash fertilizer will be needed this fall. If the ground needs lime, it should be worked into the topsoil before grain seeding, and not

broadcast on top of the winter grain this winter.

TO CONTROL INTERNAL PARASITES

The cost of feed is usually the big item in both milk and meat production. Animals that are infected with stomach worms are poor utilizers of high-priced grain or hay. We urge local producers of either beef or dairy to have fecal samples tested at their local veterinarian to learn the

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Farm Calendar

Today, Sept. 11

Colonial Day in East Berlin, Adams County, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

State Jersey Sale, Guernsey Sales Pavilion, 12:30 p.m.

The York Inter-State Fair began yesterday, will continue for another full week.

The New Jersey State Fair began yesterday, continues through Sept. 19 at Trenton, N.J.

Monday, Sept. 13

Lancaster County Farmers Association holds meeting on plans for the Park City display scheduled for next month. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, Sept. 14

Board of directors meeting for the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County; 8 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Farm and Home Center.

PennAg Convention at the Hershey Motor Lodge, begins today, runs through Thursday evening.

Southern Lancaster County Fair opens in Quarryville. See page 62 and beyond for details.

Thursday, Sept. 16

State Guernsey Sale, Guernsey Sales Pavilion, 12:30 p.m.

Oley Community Fair begins, runs through Saturday.

Bee conference and insecticide meeting, Agway Inc., 16th and Cumberland St., Lebanon. 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 17

The first annual York County FFA Market Swine Sale, York Inter-State Fair, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 18

Hort Show at Penn State, runs through Sunday.

World Championship Rodeo, Buck Tractor Pull Stadium, 2 p.m.

Regional 4-H Horse and Pony Show at Ludwig's Corner, Chester Co.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong