



**WHEN IN DOUBT**

Lesson for March 18, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
1 Corinthians 5:9 through 6:8.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Several years ago I saw a shocking display of temper and aggression in — of all places! — a church retreat center.

Two different groups were sharing the center's facilities. One group was engaged in serious study, the other in boisterous recreation. For a while the first group tried to ignore the clamor, but to no avail. Finally, the leader of this group sought out the leader of the group at play and, in what he believed to be a most reasonable manner, asked the other group's cooperation. The other leader was quick to agree,

but before they could return to their respective groups, a pushing and shouting match erupted between a member of each group. In a few short moments, blows had been struck and only the intervention of the leaders averted further mishap.

**When There's A Grievance**

The people involved in the dispute above were not children or youth. They were adults. What shocked me as I witnessed this incident was, not that there was a grievance between these two groups, but that these people did not seem to know how to react to the grievance

without becoming belligerent.

Although they may not often come to blows as in the incident I have described, there are many times when Christians seem not to know how to handle grievances and differences among themselves. I have sat through church meetings that fairly dripped with hostility and bitterness. I have seen church groups take each other to court. I have seen members of denominational boards behave as if other board members were representatives of the anti-Christ instead of brothers in Christ.

You, too, have probably witnessed similar situations in the life of the church.

Grievances are not something new in the life of the church. In 1 Corinthians 5 and 6 we find that Paul is distressed over a situation he finds in the church at Corinth: "When one of you has a grievance against a brother, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?" (6:1). Paul was shocked at the spectacle of one Christian taking another to court. What a terrible witness to the world. "To have lawsuits at all with one another is defeat for you" (6:7).

**Rather Suffer**  
Once again, Paul is not shocked that there are disagreements; he knows human nature. What he is shocked at, however, is that these Christians have not found some constructive way to handle their disagreements. Their anger and bitterness defeat their whole purpose. A much better way, he says: "Why not suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?" (6:7b,8). In other words, Paul is saying that if it comes to a choice between suffering wrong or doing wrong, it is better to choose the former. When in doubt, remember the cross.



**NOW IS THE TIME**

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
Phone 394-6851

**TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION**

The quality of our water supplies in this part of the state warrant more attention. Many folks are bothered with high bacteria count or with high nitrates. Both of these are undesirable for both domestic and livestock consumption. When the feedlots and barns are cleaned out this spring, every effort should be made

to incorporate this manure in to the topsoil just as quickly as possible. With liquid manure the soil injection-type of spreader does an excellent job. With other types of surface spreaders, the manure should be disced or plowed into the topsoil soon after application; this is especially true on slopes above water supplies. The application of fertilizers warrants the same attention; get it mixed with the topsoil quickly after application. Surface water should be directed away from wells and cisterns.

**TO TOPDRESS WHEAT**

When vegetative growth begins in the spring, it is time to apply extra nitrogen to the stand of wheat. This is very true in sandy, gravel, or shale-type soils. The amount of nitrogen per acre will vary from 25 to 60 pounds per acres; this depends upon the fertility of the soil and whether or not the field is seeded down to a legume hay crop. In the latter case, only 25 to 30 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre is suggested; there is danger of severe lodging of the grain with larger amounts. Most wheat varieties will respond with higher yields when top-

dressed with nitrogen early in the spring.

**TO STORE PESTICIDES CAREFULLY**

The spray season is at hand when various kinds of materials will be applied. The storage and handling of these spray materials is often neglected. We urge gardeners and farmers to keep these pesticides away from children, pets, and livestock. They should be kept in a special room or buildings under lock and key. Also, left-over bags and containers have been the cause of numerous poisoning cases. Be sure these are burned, buried, or put into a

public land-fill. Over the years partly used bags and containers of spray materials have been left exposed; this permits youngsters and livestock to get to them readily. Be sure this does not happen at your place. Keep all materials in the original container, or well identified.

**TO PARTICIPATE**

Many decisions are being made these days relating to land use and the preserving of farm land. I'm concerned why we cannot have more active farmers take part on these community and county boards and commissions. I have promoted this idea

several times previously but am not sure that I'm reaching very many farmers. These decisions are going to

be made in most localities; when farmers do not take part in these groups, other folks will come forward. The

resulting regulations may not be to the liking of agriculture. In order to get good agricultural thinking

into these groups, we urge more good farmers to take part; this should result in more practical regulations and better for agriculture in general.

**Machinery exposition**

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days last week. Following is what they had to say. "It was a very quiet show numberwise, but the inquiries we had were much more serious and interesting and genuine on all of the equipment we had here," commented David McFarland of Long Manufacturing. "In the

three days, with the genuine inquiries we've had, we came out alright. This is a different clientele - really good people," added David Smith, also a Long representative.

"The nice thing about this show is that we don't have the non-farming public in here clogging everything up," McFarland continued. "And the people came from

all over," said Smith, citing visitors from as far away as Maine, West Virginia, and Ohio. "Quite a few came from New Jersey and the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

Smith's and McFarland's only complaint was that they felt the show should have been promoted better by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Will Godwin of Dari-Kool expressed disappointment in

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Cliff Hallway, right, representing Vermeer Manufacturing Company, said he got a lot of leads despite a low attendance to the Equipment Exposition. Comparing notes with him is Lancaster County dairyman Donald Ranck.



The people from AMS/OIL said they had at least twice the response from Machinery Exposition visitors than they originally anticipated. Was the show any good? "Definitely," says William Shirk, center, who is looking forward to coming back next year.

**Farm Calendar**

**Today, March 17**  
Wedding bells ring for Kendy and Keith. Best Wishes!  
Happy St. Patrick's Day.  
Part-time farmer's seminar, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.  
House plant show, 11 a.m. to

5 p.m. at Gettysburg High School.  
Cecil County, Md. Dairy Tour to New Bolton Center.  
Tree fruit pruning demonstration, 10 a.m. at Heim's Fruit Farm, McKeansburg, Schuylkill County.  
**Sunday, March 18**  
House plant show at Gettysburg High School, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Monday, March 19**  
Chickies Creek Watershed Association annual membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Manheim Community Building.  
Octorara Young Farmers meeting, 7 p.m. at Art Hershey farm, Cochranville.  
Pa. Forage and Grass Council meeting, 11 a.m. at John Rogers Farm, Belleville.

Financial planning workshop, vo-ag room of Gettysburg High School, 7:30 p.m.  
Maryland Farm Bureau Fat Cattle Sale, Baltimore Livestock Auction Market, West Friendship.  
Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers annual meeting, Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. 10 a.m.

Annual meeting of the Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore, The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va. Registration begins at 2 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 20**  
Eastern Milk Producers meeting, 7 p.m. at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.  
Lancaster County Holstein Club tour.

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**RURAL ROUTE**

By Tom Armstrong

