

Those puffs of radiation may have made us more aware of our blessings, as well as our shortcomings. If Three Mile Island taught us anything, it should simply be that God's creations are fragile and need to be respected.

After much negative publicity regarding the nuclear mishap on Three Mile Island, it was thrilling to hear a White House proclamation last week which emphasized that Pennsylvania's agricultural products are as safe as ever. That's the kind of boost we needed to regain the confidence of consumers, some of whom were questioning the wholesomeness of the foods they buy. This thoughtfulness from President Carter deserves a sincere thank you and a note of praise.

Also speaking on the farmers' behalf was Governor Thornburgh who spoke reassuringly even after minute traces of iodine were found in milk. Cautious in his approach from the very beginning, the Governor provided information tempered with reason rather than emotion. This is a credit to him, as well as cabinet officers who worked closely with him throughout the ordeal. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell and Secretary of Environmental Resources Cliff Jones certainly need to be included in any notes of praise and thanks.

Continuing with the distribution of bouquets, thanks once more to President Carter for indicating that there is reason to suspect that the news media overreacted to the events on Three Mile Island. That's the consensus of quite a few people and for President Carter to make a statement to that effect is indeed newsworthy.

And certainly, thanks to all - above all, God - for seeing us through the situation safely. Hundreds of people dedicated countless hours towards a solution of the problem, and while we can't name them, none should be without our respect.

In the final analysis, let us not

COMMENTS

By
**DIETER
KRIEG,
EDITOR**



forget that no one was seriously injured as far as is known. Not a soul was lost, and despite the inconveniences and genuine concerns, tangible property damage outside of Three Mile Island appears to be virtually non-existent.

That's not to say that the radiation leak was nothing to be concerned about.

But let us not forget that we have much to be thankful for. And yes, let's remember that we had much reason for gratitude long before the unfortunate accident on Three Mile Island.

Those puffs of radiation may have made us more aware of our

blessings, as well as our shortcomings. If so, it's a mark in our favor.

Perhaps we will all be a little wiser for what happened on Three Mile Island during the first weeks of Spring 1979. Scientists, and even you and I will undoubtedly learn something from it. Man has a history of learning from his mistakes and overcoming ignorance. That trend didn't end in the Susquehanna River.

The escalator towards more knowledge will continue to move and regardless of whether one is for or against nuclear power, the wheels of progress will continue to turn. Where it will all end is a source of wonder and sometimes even fright. But it would be wrong, I think, to focus all our fears on a nuclear reactor.

Admittedly, I shudder to think what radiation could do to my children. Heaven forbid that anyone be harmed by it, from whatever source. But I'm even more concerned about the destruction - both mental and physical - that's represented by people hooked on drugs and alcohol and the greed for money. While mankind may have harnessed the atom, he has not conquered the roots of evil which are known to destroy body, mind, and soul.

And cigarette smoke - that stuff is pure murder to a lot of peoples' throats and lungs!

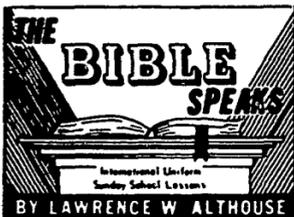
If Three Mile Island has taught us anything, it should simply be that God's creations are fragile and they are to be respected. Nothing is totally safe or foolproof.

Consider water, for example. You can't possibly live without it. But a few gulps can kill you. A little match is something no one would want to be without. But a careless user can make you wish it was never invented. And worst of all, man himself has the capability to do wondrous things. But a mind lacking moral standards and warped by drugs or greed or alcohol is the ultimate insult and threat to society.

The tiny atom, like anything else, has its beneficial side, I believe. And radiation, though it may frighten us, is natural. It comes forth from sun and even rocks. It's also beaming out from television sets and watch dials that glow in the dark. In fact, it's streaming out of this video display terminal into which I'm programming these words. The intent and hope is that no person receives more radiation than is safe.

And so, while the giant cooling towers on Three Mile Island are thought of us a huge mistake by some folks, others see them as the triumphant pillars of the future.

The truth lies somewhere between those two extremes. Like everything else - from fire to fertilizer, to drops of water and peoples' minds - there is a delicate balance involved that must be understood and respected.



**EASTER'S
"THEREFORE"**

Lesson for April 15, 1979

Background Scripture:
1 Corinthians 15.
Devotional Reading:
1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

Some years ago I saw a church bulletin board with the pastor's Easter Sunday sermon title: "Christ Is Risen!" Someone had used a piece of soap to write on the glass this response: "SO WHAT?"

Actually, it was a rather appropriate question. Perhaps we have too often proclaimed Christ's resurrection without spelling out sufficiently the "so what?" that goes with it. Is the resurrection simply a happy ending for the gospel story, or is it an event that has some lasting effect upon our lives?

This Life Only?

Paul realized that the foundation of the Good News is the resurrection of our Lord and what that event means for us. There are people today who assume that they can have a Christianity without having to accept the resurrection. But Paul knows that without the resurrection, there is no Good News. So, to the Corinthians, he wrote: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we

are of all men most to be pitied" (15:14,18,19). The Gospel, he says, rises or falls on the resurrection.

If life is to have any meaning, there must be something beyond this earthly existence. Theologian John Cobb has said: "Personal existence can matter ultimately, only if it matters everlastingly." So, to the question of "So what?" we must answer that, because there is a life beyond, the quality of the life here and now can be radically transformed. The significance of the Easter faith is not just that Jesus

was victorious over death, but that his victory points the way for our own victory. Thus, the Christian's celebration does not mean simply, "Christ is risen - good for him!" but "Christ is risen - good for us!"

Never In Vain

The whole 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians is a stirring treatise on Christ's resurrection and ours. The climax comes as he sings:

"Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be

to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(15:54b-56)

Ah yes, the "victory"! And then what? Paul follows with the most convincing "therefore" that words can convey: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (15:58). Because Christ was victorious, I know that I can be victorious too. And because I can be victorious over death, I can also be victorious in the midst of life.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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to our crops. The monitoring teams have been very active and have not found amounts more than normal. Therefore, I'd suggest that we proceed with our Spring plantings as in former years. The advertising that condemns Pennsylvania products, because of the nuclear situation, is regrettable and without facts.

**TO BEWARE OF
WILD GARLIC**

The pasture season is approaching when many herds and flocks will be grazing. This is the time when dairymen must be very careful about off-flavored milk. Milking cows should be kept off lush

pastures at least four hours before the milking period. If the area contains wild garlic, milking cows should not be grazed. This will

certainly produce onion-flavored milk and be the reason for rejection. These areas should be grazed by dry cows or young stock.

Wild garlic control is difficult but sprays earlier in the Spring using 2, 4-D will help keep it under control.

**TO INCORPORATE
LIVESTOCK
AND POULTRY WASTES**

Many barns and feedlots
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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

TO PROCEED NORMALLY

The recent nuclear situation at Three Mile Island will be a topic for discussion for months to come. It is easy to understand that many gardeners and farmers will be concerned about the amount of fallout in the soil; numerous phone calls at our Extension Office have inquired about their Spring plantings. To the best of our knowledge the radioactive fallout has not been to the extent of causing any danger

