



The air has a crisp edge now. The early mornings see the sun rise slightly slower, and the first frost has gently touched the green.

Harvest-time is here. Now is the final countdown when the farmer gets the real picture of just how good or bad this growing season has been for him. It's time to fill the silo, reap the fields, and prepare in earnest for the long Winter ahead.

Tractors can be heard long into the night, and he is usually up and working before many of his neighbors even know the new day has arrived.

The family hurries to help with students who reluctantly go to school, jumping off the schoolbus, and hurry into the house, to quickly change into their work clothes.

And farm wives despair of ever getting the family fed, as their schedules are often punctured with requests to help outside.

Outside there is subtle change in the air. It's as if Nature herself is urging everyone to do all they

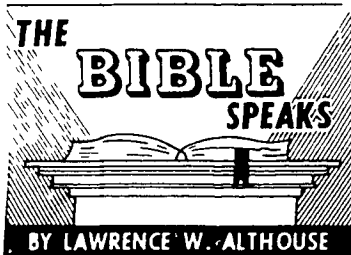
can today, for she can't promise what the weather will be tomorrow. Gone are the golden rays of Summer, with the rich red and browns of Fall slowly etching their way into the landscape.

This then is Fall—the time when the final reckoning is felt across the land. While farmers are no longer as dependent on their own harvest to see them through the Winter as the men of yesteryears, he knows that harvesttime is like his final exam, to tell whether he's outwitted the problems that he has faced throughout the growing season.

And while the farmer may be terse and harried through this busy time, underneath his hard exterior, you may glimpse a smile as he brings a bountiful harvest into the barn, or beats the rain by working far into the night.

This is one of the challenges that draws men into farming.

By Kendace Borry



TEACH THE FAITH!

Lesson for September 23, 1979

Background Scripture:
1 Thessalonians 1;
Titus.
Devotional Reading:
1 Timothy 4:6-16.

The familiar admonition today is, "Keep the faith!"

But it is hard to "keep" the faith if "keeping" means to hang on to something. Like many other things in life, the faith can only be "kept", if we are willing to give it away in some manner. Often, we retain something only when we are willing to share it. So, if we are to "keep the faith", we will need also to share the faith.

SOUND DOCTRINE

In Paul's letter to Titus, he counsels him, "teach what befits sound doctrine" (2:1). These words might easily lead us to envision a classroom setting with a

teacher lecturing to students on the various theological propositions of Christianity. "Teaching" suggests to us a thoroughly academic experience.

If we continue further in this passage, however, it is obvious that when Paul says "teach", he means to teach by example, not by scholastic techniques: "Bid the older men be temperate, serious, sensible, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness" (2:3). Paul is not talking about teaching ideas, but of witnessing through daily living what Christianity is all about.

This was also the heart of Paul's ministry. To be sure, he was a powerful preacher and teacher and his mind was a brilliant one. But Paul did not rely solely upon his powers of oral persuasion. Like his master, Paul taught mostly by example: "You know what kind of men we proved to be among you" (1 Thessalonians 1:5). His deepest impression on the people of Thessalonica was dependent, not upon his eloquent speech, but his conduct in their midst.

Be Imitators Of Us!

Nor was Paul simply trying to earn the ad-

miration of the Thessalonians; to the contrary, he was attempting to give them a style of living that they could imitate. "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord" (1:6). It was not a case of "Do as I say, not as I do," for Paul wanted them to copy him as he believed that he copied Christ. As the old saying goes: "What you are speaks so loudly that I can't hear you."

The beautiful thing about this kind of imitation is that, once set in motion it can become contagious. The people at Thessalonica witnessed Paul's conduct

and copied him. In turn, their behavior became a powerful teaching thrust to other Christians beyond the city limits of Thessalonica: "you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia" (1:6).

The gift of words is a wonderful gift to the person who would preach or teach to others. Words can stir and inspire us - they can even change our lives. But for the most part, the best and most effective teaching of the faith is the faith that is demonstrated in lives that consciously attempt to imitate our Lord.



TO CONSIDER YOUR AGRICULTURAL IMAGE
How do you rate as a farmer in your community? Does the general appearance of your farm and buildings encourage non-farm folks to consume more farm products? This

question should be answered with a "yes". I realize that most commercial farmers are very busy with livestock and crop work; many do not seem to have time to consider the appearance of their farmstead. However, this is an important item to non-farm folks driving through the rural areas. No doubt an attractive place will encourage city folks to visit the country and perhaps some of the farms. On the other hand, a very untidy, poorly

managed place will sour folks from using farm products. Good relations with all neighbors and a good farm image in the community is very important.

TO PREPARE HEATING SYSTEMS

Cold weather is approaching when all types of heating systems will be put into use. Too many fires have been started because of defective flues, chimneys, and furnaces. In this part of the state, the stove systems in

tobacco barns should get a good inspection. The mortar between the brick in some chimneys may need replaced. Rusted or poorly-connected flues need repaired. Some chimneys may need cleaned before cold weather arrives. All of these will be needed later this winter. Proper maintenance and close inspection now may prevent serious fires and losses later in the fall or winter.

TO CONTROL WEEDS IN NEW ALFALFA

Recent growing conditions have favored the growth of both alfalfa and weeds. In many cases the broad-leaf weeds will crowd out the small alfalfa plants, if not controlled. August seedlings of alfalfa without a nurse crop need some weed protection. One suggested practice is to spray the area with 2,4-D-B when the growth is 2 to 3 inches high. This will knock out the broadleaf weeds without harming the alfalfa plants. If the weeds are permitted to develop larger, they will be hard to kill without hurting the alfalfa. Alfalfa seeding is an expensive practice; this investment needs protection by controlling the weeds. Many good stands of alfalfa have been ruined by excessive weed growth.

TO MANAGE TEMPORARY SILAGE STORAGE

Many livestock and dairy producers do not have space

for all of their silage crops. The horizontal silo is practical when properly handled. This means chopping the silage fine, packing it well with a heavy wheel tractor, and sealing out the air within 48 hours after filling. Black plastic is commonly used to seal out the air. This can be held down by soil, ground limestone, or with old tires. The important things is get it well packed and tightly sealed. Surface water drainage should be kept out of the silage area; this can be done with a drainage ditch around the horizontal silo. Children, pets, and all livestock should be kept from the top of the silage.

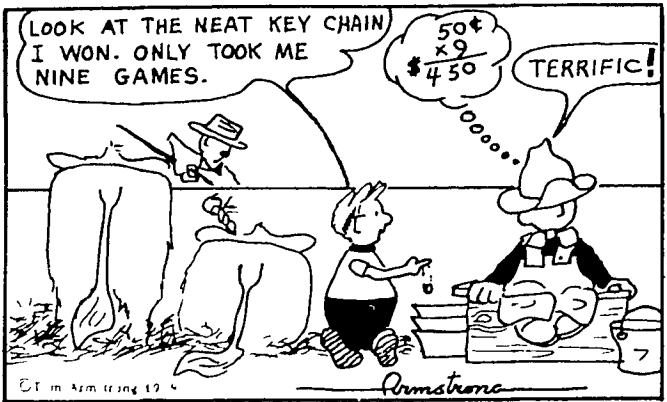
Farm Calendar

Today, September 22
Lancaster-Lebanon County dairy goat club meeting at the Farm and Home Center starting at 1 p.m.
(Turn to Page 34)

NOW IS THE TIME

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

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong