

Dear Grandson or Granddaughter

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

The following is a letter to a grandson or granddaughter as yet unborn:

Dear
Someday, you may come to me and ask about enrolling in vocational agriculture and joining FFA, assuming that both are still around when the time comes.

Like most everything else in life that's neither completely black or white but just a variegated shade of gray, I'm sure I will have mixed feelings.

I think that the discipline and self-confidence that you can learn in FFA in such activities as public speaking and parliamentary procedure will help your maturing process -- just as it has aided countless millions of youngsters before you.

FFA will also help give you a clean, wholesome competitive spirit in many of its activities -- something that will be invaluable throughout your life.

And FFA will bring you into contact with people that make up the "greatest minority in the world" -- those who work the land and those who directly help them.

But I wouldn't be completely honest with you if I didn't point out some reservations I have, too.

Sometimes, I think that some of the livestock competitions get out of hand and more, important help, to get the perspective of young minds out of kilter. I've noticed some who place primary emphasis on winning and not on competing and learning.

Holding back the natural development or livestock for later competition just makes no sense to me at all. How all of this has any relationship to teaching a youth how to be a successful farmer is beyond my comprehension.

Such tactics of holding animals back for Farm Show or whatever only tell me that the

"end justifies the means."

I hope that's one lesson you never learn. Because if you do learn it, you only go through life trying to stretch that principle farther and farther. And this only brings heartache and disappointment.

Also, my future grandchild, if you look around the Lebanon County dairy scene, you'll probably see a pretty successful dairy farmer named John B. Kline.

A couple decades or so ago, John was already a true and legitimate successful dairy farmer, although he was only a short time out of high school. At the conclusion of a successful FFA career, John was up for a "Star" honor, that in effect would have said he was the top young production FFA'er in the country.

But that top honor eluded John, just as it eluded a close friend of his earlier.

When it's time for you, my grandchild, to mold your career and your way in the world, may you freely be able to make your choice as to whether you want to go to college or go directly into work in your chosen profession.

And, may you strive to do your best, if you choose not to go to college -- just as these two Lebanon County young men have done.

But even more important, if you decide not to go to college, may our society and peers be enlightened enough to realize that your decision should not be an artificial barrier to you when you come up against those who have selected the route of higher education.

For no matter what you eventually decide, you will always be the "star" in my mind -- just as they are today.

Sincerely,

Grandpa Dick

A Reasonable Compromise

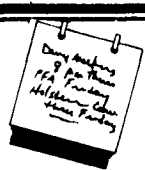
The moratorium compromise between the Pork Producers and Pa.'s BAI seems to be a reasonable one. It gives economically hard-hit swine producers with PRV some breathing room, while still keeping a handle on the disease until a complete alternate program is developed.

It places a lot of responsibility on those swine producers and others who will be drafting the program. Some farmers in the coming few months are going to have to spend as much time on it as they almost spend on their own operations.

The PDA's BAI is to be lauded for its cooperative stance in the compromise effort.

The past is past now and all efforts should be directed at the future. This is not a win-lose situation for anyone concerned. If an effective alternative program can be devised to control and eventually eradicate PRV without jeopardizing operations, then everyone wins -- the state, the producers and the entire agricultural community

Farm Calendar



Saturday, November 17
Hunterdon County N.J. Board of Agriculture annual dinner meeting, 6 p.m., Quakertown Fire House, near Pittstown, N.J.

Monday, November 19
PFA Annual meeting, Hershey Convention Center, continues

through Wednesday.
McKean Extension Executive meeting, 8 p.m., Extension Center, Smithport.

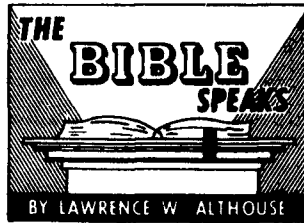
Tuesday, November 20
York DHIA Banquet.
Peninsula Horticultural Society meeting for greenhouse and nursery operators, 9:15 a.m. -

3:30 p.m. Wicomico Youth x Civic Center, Salisbury, Md.

Forage Conference, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mountain View Hotel, 5 miles east of Greensburg.

Dairy Feeding Programs, McKean County.

Annual Lancaster County Ag Industry Banquet, 7 p.m., Historic Strasburg.



AWAKE OR SLEEP
November 18, 1984

Background Scripture:
1 Thessalonians 5.
Devotional Reading:
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

1 Thessalonians is likely Paul's earliest letter to one of his churches -- or at least that we still have today. Scholars believe that it was written about 51 A.D., barely twenty years after the death and resurrection of Christ and still very early in Paul's ministry.

What I have cited above, however, is not just of historical interest. It is, rather, a very important factor to be considered in evaluating what Paul has to say in this letter.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

It is obvious, if we read all of 1 Thessalonians, that Paul expects the glorious return of Jesus to be quite immanent. He did not expect that death would claim the Thessalonian Christians before Christ returned in his glorious power. They were counseled to be ready at all times, so that they would not be caught unprepared.

By the time Paul writes some of his later letters -- Philippians and Colossians, for example, some ten years later -- he is no longer speaking of Christ's immanent return. In fact, Paul has stopped speculating when and how that Second Coming will be. Instead, he

counsels: "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:4).

Paul had apparently come to realize that, it is not so important when and how Christ will return to glory, but that we live in eternal readiness for him. Paul did not know when Christ was returning, but it didn't matter, for, regardless of that, Paul knew what he must be doing -- must live so close to Christ that, whether he returned or didn't, nothing could take him from Christ's grasp.

LIVE WITH HIM

God has destined us, says Paul, for "salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him." There's the key for all of us concerning the Second Coming of Christ. If we live closely to him, we need never be caught unprepared.

Thus, the waiting to which they are called is a rather delicate balance. On the one hand we must never be so unmindful of it, that we forget to be ready. On the other hand, we should never be so pre-occupied with it that we fail to devote ourselves to the here and now.

And what should we be doing while we wait for his return in glory? Paul states it clearly. "admonish the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all" (5:14). Thus, instead of debating about Christ's return, we need to be doing the things we'd want him to find us doing when that day does come.

Obviously, Paul was in error in thinking about Christ would soon return. But that does not detract in any way from Paul's counsel to both the Thessalonians and us. "Whether we wake or sleep we might live with him."

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Repair Machinery During The Winter

Most of the outside field work is finished for this year. I also know that every farm has machinery that needs repair and service. If you are planning to have this done at your machinery dealer, it would be wise to contact him in the near future so it's on his work schedule. I'm aware of the spring rush next March and April; and I know your local serviceman will appreciate the work during the fall and into the long winter days. It can also save time in case parts need to be ordered to complete the job. The objective is to be planning for this repair work now. Have it done so you're machinery is ready to go early next spring.

To Be Aware of Wild Birds

No doubt most livestock producers have faced the problem of wild birds during snow covered days. These birds come by the

thousands and feed from livestock bunks and feeders. They not only eat feed but their droppings present very unsanitary conditions for everyone. Also, since the birds fly from farm to farm, they are a definite source of spreading various diseases. Unfortunately, we do not have a real good cure for the problem. They can be screened out of confinement buildings. One farmer obtained results by dipping a half inch rope in creosote, then tacking it on top of the roosting area, giving discomfort by irritating the feet. Another farmer suggests using a shallow pan with about a half inch of salt on the bottom with a thin layer of lard over the salt so as the bird pecks through the lard they pick up the salt. In buildings without livestock, a rotating light makes the birds dizzy and they will not stay long. In any event ... good luck.

To Order Small Fruit Plants Early

This may strike you as premature, but this is a good time to order small fruit plants for next spring. Although you won't put them in the ground until April, you should be flipping through catalogs now. Ordering early assures you of a wide selection of the best varieties. Companies begin filling orders with their best stock ... if you delay you could be stuck with what's left over. Ordering early also means you'll get your strawberries or raspberries or whatever at the best time to plant.

So, dig out those catalogs now ... get your order in ... and be

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