

NOW IS THE TIME

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THIS IS THE VICTORY!
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place in society. But today, who would regard their temporary success a real victory? Conquerors and tyrants have won an amazing array of victories since the very beginning of time: the Pharaoh's armies, Alexander the Great, the Roman legions, the barbarian hordes, and so on. But where are their victories now? Nowhere, for they were not real victories.

THE WORLD OVERCOME

That's why, on the other hand, Easter is a real victory. As the writer of 1 John says, "and this is the victory that overcomes the world..." (5:4). Easter means not only that Christ was victorious over death, but that we will be, too. And it means, not only that we shall survive death on earth, but that we shall share in Christ's great victory. Easter is not just survival, it is victory!

Easter is our reminder that Christ overcame the world through his resurrection. But there is more: "Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (5:5) Not only did Christ overcome the world, but we too are aware overcome it with our faith. Our purpose is not just to outlast death, but to be part of God's victorious purpose and fulfillment.

Nathaniel Micklem once wrote: "... had it not been for the Resurrection... the Cross would have been the final proof, not of the presence of God in history, but the absence of God from history." But the resurrected Christ proclaims the presence and the pre-eminence of God who, in the long run, overcomes the world and shares with us the victory that for once is the real one.

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To Plan For Oat Planting
I know some farmers are considering the use of feed oats for planting this spring, but this may not be a good idea. Feed oats may contain quackgrass, bindweed and other weed seeds. Planting feed oats will generally result in lower yields. You also have the problem that any weed seeds planted will be a problem for years to come.

Keep in mind that high quality seed is the smallest part of producing a crop. So, saving a few cents by using inferior or weedy seed doesn't make much sense.

On the other hand, homegrown seed of varieties proven successful on the farm can be cleaned, treated and planted if the germination is 80 percent or better. You can place the seed in a tray with moist soil, cover with wet burlap and keep in a warm place. Then count the seeds that germinate against the total and determine the percent germination.

To Evaluate Winter Wheat Topdressing

During this season of the year many farmers ask the question, does winter wheat need fertilizing? According to agronomists, topdressing with fertilizer may or may not be a good idea. There are several things that should be considered before making the decision.

In the first place, do not topdress winter wheat with a fertilizer that contains nitrogen if the wheat is to be overseeded with clover or

alfalfa. Nitrogen causes heavy growth of wheat which may smother the new seeding. The winter wheat fields that have come through the winter looking thin, should be topdressed now. Use only a straight nitrogen fertilizer, such as urea. Topdressing winter wheat with phosphate or potash fertilizer has not given any increased wheat yields.

Apply the nitrogen fertilizer in early spring at the rate of 30 to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

To Provide Farm Security

Thefts and vandalism on farms in on the increase. This is very difficult to prevent because of the various items around farm buildings and homes; also the number of buildings and places to enter are many. However, we suggest that every farmer take some steps to protect his machinery, tools, livestock and supplies. The automatic lights that come on at dusk and go off at dawn should be of real value in discouraging burglars. There are also many new sensing devices that detect movement around the premises.

Watch dogs are also very useful in detecting strangers around the property. Shops, garages and other smaller buildings should be kept locked when possible. The identification of animals by tags, branding and photographs is very helpful. It is also a good idea to mark all machinery and tools with a permanent ID number. The best number to use is your drivers license number preceded by DL.

PA (Drivers License, Pennsylvania).

Remember, Social Security numbers are non-retrievable so it's best not to use them. Farm thefts are on the increase so farmers should take steps to protect their property.

To Increase Pasture Production

One of the best ways to improve permanent pasture is to apply lime and plant food, practice rotational grazing and clip them regularly. This is quicker, cheaper and involves less risk than tearing up the old sod and reseeding.

Most permanent pastures have sufficient seed of desirable grass species. The only thing they need is a little tender loving care and the opportunity to grow and to recover from grazing pressures. Thus, fertility and rotational grazing are very beneficial.

The more paddocks you have, the better it is. If your acreage is limited for your herd size, restrict the amount of time cattle and livestock are permitted to graze. Don't let them trample the grass unnecessarily by allowing them to roam freely over the pasture while not grazing.

After a paddock has been grazed, it can be clipped to control weed growth and to keep the grass young and nutritious. This is also a good time to apply fertilizer and necessary herbicides, while allowing the grass to recover prior to being grazed again.

Background Scripture: 1 John 4 through 5.

Devotional Reading: 1 John 4:1-6.

Somewhere in my files is a quotation from Christofer Fry's chancel drama, *A Sleep of Prisoners*. I cannot give it to you verbatim, but perhaps even the kernel of it that I do remember will be helpful to you. The occasion is the return of David's general, Joab, from the battlefield. Joab has not yet revealed to David that his son Ahab has been killed, but David senses it when he asks: "What are you bringing me? Is it the victory? So often what you have brought me is not the victory, but something else."

WHO OVERCOMES?

Even if I have remembered Fry's words imperfectly, I still remember well after all these years the impact they first had on me. And today I understand them even better than I did 30 years ago. I have experienced in my own life those "victories" that are not really victories.

Much of life is spent in trying to find the real victory. For example, on the day on which Jesus was crucified, it was a day of victory for those who had plotted his death. They killed and discredited the Nazarene. They silenced the voice that seemed to endanger their

Farm Calendar



Saturday, March 29

Adams County Beef Ball, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg.
Pa. Holstein Spring Show, 8:30 a.m., Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
Antique Show and Sale, Mifflinburg Area High School, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$1 admission.

Monday, March 31

York ASCS Feed Grain/Wheat Program meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, York ASCS office.

Wednesday, April 2

Lancaster Conservation District board meeting.
Berks County Marketing Meeting on Futures Contracting and the Future.
Md. State Jersey Sale.

Thursday, April 3

Adams County Water Quality Fair, Penn State Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville, 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H Holstein Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.

Safe Drinking Water meeting, Penn State Fruit Lab, Biglerville, 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, April 4

Elizabethtown Young Farmers Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy; for tickets at \$8.50 each call Ken Balmer at 367-0895.

Saturday, April 5

Montgomery County 4-H Showcase, Montgomery County 4-H Center, Creamery, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
PSU Dairy Science Club annual dairy judging contest, Penn State Ag Arena, 10 a.m.

Monday, April 7

Sheep Shearing School, Mercer and Venango County, Carl Gadsby Farm, Grove City, 9 a.m.; continues through tomorrow.

HARRISBURG — Uniting farmers, small town bankers and business leaders, and consumers to end the rural crisis is the goal of a "Fight Back!" campaign waged by National Farmers Union.

NFU has established a toll-free telephone number for interested callers to find out how they can "Fight Back!" against the inadequate 1985 Farm Bill, dropping farm income, proposed budget cuts for rural programs and the crisis in rural America.

Tuesday, April 8

Beef Producers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Adams County Extension office, Gettysburg.

Wednesday, April 9

Sheep Shearing School, Lawrence County, David Whiting Farm, Pulaski, 9 a.m.; continues tomorrow.

Saturday, April 12

Maryland State Holstein Show, State Fairgrounds.

The toll-free telephone number is 1-800-437-7571.

"We can unite to turn things around — in Washington, in our state capital, on the farm and in town. Or, we can allow the situation to get worse," the general family farm organization says in a rural newspaper advertising blitz. "Every member of the rural community and every city resident is feeling the effect of this disaster, whether it is through the effects of a lowered tax base on education and road construction and repair, the loss of income to small businesses and banks, the drop in contributions to local churches, or the unjust proposals contained in President Reagan's budget to end support for rural programs," Pennsylvania Farmers Union President Stetler said.

"There is genuine concern among the public on this issue, and genuine desire to end the rural crisis and start on the road to justice and equality for farmers and consumers," Stetler said. "This campaign will harness that concern to produce constructive

action. We cannot allow the situation to worsen, or even to continue." Callers on the toll-free telephone line will be greeted by an NFU member who will explain several options for immediate action. Options include speaking out against the proposed budget and lack of farm income, writing letters to the editor, to Congressmen and other public officials, inviting legislators to visit farms and small communities to view the depression first-hand, and joining a farm organization they believe in. Callers will also learn about NFU's legislative activities.

As an organization, NFU is preparing to meet the challenge legislatively by:

- * Seeking an emergency bill to improve farm income for family farm survival.

- * Seeking emergency credit for Spring work and for farmers facing financial disaster.

- * Pushing for agricultural tax reforms that help restore profitability and fairness in agriculture.

- * Addressing the Gramm-Rudman budget implications to America's farmers and rural small businesses, with the possibility of taking court action against the ominous law which hangs over any potential farm recovery.

- * Oppose merger of Conrail with the Norfolk Southern Railroad because of monopoly implications for agricultural shippers.

- * Seeking further refinements in the U.S. Bankruptcy Code so that farmers can successfully use it to reorganize their operations and continue farming.

