

CLERGY COMMENT

"All Scripture is Inspired By God"

BY FATHER OTGER DEVENT

For a Christian Christ the Lord commissioned the Apostles to preach to all men that Gospel which is the source of all saving truth and moral teaching, and thus to impart to them divine gifts. This commission was faithfully fulfilled by the Apostles who, by their oral teaching, by example and ordinances handed on the Message which they had received from the Lord.

Some of the Apostles and apostolic men committed at least a summary of this message of salvation to writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Put in a little different way: In composing the sacred books, God chose men, and while "employed" by Him, they made use of their abilities, so that, with God acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which God wanted. Therefore "all Scripture is inspired by God." (2 Tim. 3)

Because God speaks in sacred scripture, however, through men in human fashion, the interpreter of Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning this particular author of this particular passage really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of His words.

In other words we cannot take the Bible, read a passage and say: this is its mean at least for me; maybe for somebody else it means something else: there is only one meaning, the one which is meant by God and expressed by the human author.

In other words, we must search out the intention of the sacred writer, and must, among other things, have regard for "literary forms."

These authors were men of their times, their cultures, their ways of writing history, their ways of expressing themselves. We find different literary styles: poetry, official records, novels, even as we have now.

We have the same differences in our way of using language. Different persons often produce a different description of the same event. One person may tell a story as precisely and as baldly as a police report, the other tries to capture something of real life, a third one may make it very dramatic, perhaps exaggerating certain things. If we do not know the speaker we might make mistakes in the exact happening of this particular event, because we do not consider the difference in the literary genre used.

Truth is, therefore, proposed and expressed in a variety of ways, depending on whether a text is history of one kind or another, or whether the form is that of prophecy, poetry, or some other type of speech.

From all this it becomes clear that we cannot just take the Bible, read a passage, and say: this is its meaning.

We must investigate what meaning the sacred writer intended to express and actually expressed in particular circumstances as he used contemporary literary forms in accordance with the situation of his own time and culture.

For the correct understanding of what the sacred author wanted to assert, due attention must be paid to the customary and characteristic styles of perceiving, speaking and narrating which prevailed at the time of the sacred writer, and to the customs men normally followed at that period in their everyday dealings with one another.

The first generations of Christians had little chance to have a copy of all the books of the New Testament, for the simple reason that there were only a few copies available, most of the people could not read anyway, and the last Book was written only at the end of the first century. They received God's Message from the spoken words of the Apostles and apostolic men - in other words from tradition - which later on, at least partly, was written down in what we call the New Testament.

Taking into consideration those different literary styles of which we spoke above, we have to ask ourselves: "how did those first Christians understand Christ's teaching and that way is the one meant by the human author under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

The divine Truth is the one and is the same for everyone, because only one correct interpretation can be the true one. (Saint Peter in his Second Letter states these things in very strong terms, and this Letter is also part of God's Word!).



MUSEUM TRUCK

The traditional Christmas opera house at the Havelock County Museum, Kelso Park, Milton, is currently under way. A profusion of candles and greenery decorate the main building where refreshments will be served for the next six days. The regular staff will be augmented by the "Friends of the Museum" who will assist at the hearthside from

2 p.m. to 7 p.m. each afternoon. There is no park or museum admission fee for this special event; and all the museum buildings will be open for viewing.

One of the most popular artifacts on display this year is a 1918 Ford truck in the carriage house. This vehicle can carry one and a half tons on solid rubber tires, and was Oakville's first truck.

BALLINAFAD

President, Mrs. William McLean was hostess for the Christmas meeting of the Women's Institute. Ten members and five visitors were present.

Hostess, with the help of Mrs. Marshall, served a desert luncheon to the women shortly after 1 p.m. The meeting got under way about 2 p.m.

Mrs. McLean opened by repeating the favorite Christmas hymn, Away in a Manger. During the business period, it was decided that \$30 should be given the welfare convener for purchasing Christmas boxes for shut-ins.

Mrs. Jesse McEnery was program convener. She called for each member to give a current event of local interest. Following this, everyone joined in singing carols, accompanied by Mrs. Ernest McEnery at the piano. Everyone was asked to

contribute something towards the program.

A varied and interesting program was provided consisting of recitations, humorous readings, demonstrations, a contest and one of the guests.

Although no better weather prevailed for the third meeting of the "Creative Stitches" class, a large number of women met Tuesday afternoon at the Community Centre. Two new stitches were shown to the class and some ideas were given out regarding wall hangings, sampler's, cushions etc. The class will not be meeting again until early in January.

The new project for the 4-H Homemaking club is "The Cereal Shelf". The current one ends this week with achievement day being held on Saturday.

The service of worship was fairly well attended on Sunday with some new faces spotted among the congregation. They received a warm welcome from the pastor, Rev. Stiles. It was announced Sunday that Dec. 10 would be family Sunday. All are invited to stay after the service for tea and a social time. The flowers and the plant placed in the church were in memory of the late Mrs. Anderson and Harry Shortill. —Winifred Smith

STEWARTTOWN

THE HERALD, Wednesday, DEC. 12, 1973, Page 8B

St. John's Church Guild held its annual Christmas party at Hunters Inn in Georgetown. After enjoying dinner, a number of contests gave the women an opportunity to visit. Gifts were exchanged from unknown friends.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Hicken, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clapham and rs. J. Ross, attended the funeral service of their aunt, Mrs. Frank Hicken, of Utterson, Dec. 3. Mrs. Hicken died in Huntville hospital. Mr. E. Hicken and Mr. T. Clapham were pallbearers at the service held at Utterson United church. Burial was at Stephenson Ward cemetery.

Sincere sympathy of the community is extended to the family of the late Mrs. Bud Anderson, who died in Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Nov. 29, after a brief illness. Shirley, as she was known to us, was born in Stewarttown, Oct. 24, 1932, youngest daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Alfred Thompson. She taught school at Alton, Acton and Opreinge and at the time of her death she was doing supply work. Funeral service on Monday last was conducted by Rev. Walter Fosbury at Churchill United church where she and her husband were married on Aug. 13, 1955, and where she has been an active member for many years, as choir member, soloist and Sunday school superintendent. Burial was in Huxley cemetery, Hillsburgh. Her six nephews were pallbearers: Ronald, Barry and Tim MacArthur, Dan and Mark Shortill and John Thompson. She is survived by her husband, Emerson Anderson, two sons

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9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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HERE'S HOW TO ENTER . . .

RULES!! Each week you are invited to match a movie star to a well-known movie. The movie is shown below and the stars name appears in five of the advertisements on this feature. To be eligible for the weekly prizes, simply clip the advertisement showing the movie star you believe played a leading role in "Kluge" and send your entries to "Star Editor" c/o The Herald.

Last week's leading role was played by Lee Grant.

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PARENTS' NIGHT

It was parent's night for the First Georgetown cub pack on November 29 at St. John's Church hall. Activities included an investiture service as well as games. Above, cubs and fathers participate in a rope contest arranged by cub master Mrs. Jean Layman.

Watercourse Snow Disposal Still Banned

Environment minister James Auld has reaffirmed his policy for direct snow disposal. He stated: "Based on the results of this ministry's recent studies, we will continue our policy instituted in 1972. Direct disposal of contaminated snow to watercourses is banned, except under extreme emergency conditions."

Studies conducted in municipalities throughout Ontario last winter confirmed the fact that snow removed from streets and roadways contains levels of polluting materials. Concentrations of organic materials, salts, oil, heavy metals and other solids were particularly high in snow removed from high-use arterial roadways.

Emergency dumping for the 1973-74 season must have the prior approval of the ministry. Municipalities must provide all information about normal snow disposal practices and define the conditions that require emergency action. Permission will be granted only after the water quality of the receiving watercourse has been evaluated.

Mr. Auld stated further that municipalities which receive approval will be required to inform the ministry of the environment immediately upon initiation disposal operations. "With the ban on direct dumping and with field studies continuing throughout the winter, the ministry believes this source of potential pollution can be controlled and water quality standards can be maintained throughout the province."

Gentlemen!
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Halton Region MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CREST CONTEST

Entries are invited from residents of the new Regional Municipality of Halton to participate in a contest to design a Corporate Crest that will clearly define and represent this new region.

To be considered, all entries must be written and graphic, and submitted to the undersigned on or before February 28, 1974.

A cash award of \$300 shall be paid to the participant having submitted the entry judged by the Council to be the winner.

All entries shall become the exclusive property of the Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Halton and will not be returned.

ALLAN M. MASSON, Chairman,
Regional Municipality of Halton,
491 Steeles Avenue,
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