

# THOUGHTS

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By the father/son team  
Pastor Paul R Schroeder  
Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## ***May Christ Find a Warm Spot in Your Heart!!!***

Yes, another calendar year has come to an end! God has blessed us once again—the message of salvation has gone out across the world. People have been saved! Praise God!!!

May your faith grow and may God fill you with great peace and joy!!!

### **Open**

*She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. John 20:14*

Unbelief blinds us from seeing God. None are so blind as those who will not see.

The only reason anyone sees Christ for who He truly is—is that their eyes have been opened by faith. The beautiful song says it so well—“I was blind, but now I see.”

When Christ reveals himself to us—we see! Faith is God given! Our spiritual eyes are opened by His gracious gift.

Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus until He revealed Himself to her. The Emmaus disciples didn't recognize Jesus until he “opened” their eyes to know Him.

It is God who does the “opening”. He creates new life, new thoughts, new hope. As god's word is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit opens eyes that were blinded by sin.

The world is stumbling in darkness. God's Word, and only God's Word will enable them to “see”

*Open my heart, Lord, and my eyes.*

### **Parting**

*The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24*

She said, “thank you”. She always did, right after I finished praying. Two days later my mother was with God.

She had always been a person of prayer. So, it was natural that we would pray before parting. For numerous years I made the monthly journey to visit—and then part again.

Each time we prayed about God's care, forgiveness, and love. Each time we rejoiced in our salvation and acknowledged our desire to be with Jesus in heaven.

The final words were always the same: “May God bless you and keep you.” They were always the parting words. They summarized the total of all we wished for and wanted.

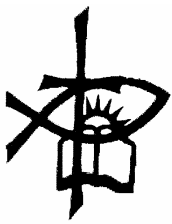
It is great to know there is a heaven. It is great to know your loved ones are there with God.

*God bless you and keep you..*

Sincerely,  
Paul R. Schroeder

**2013**

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*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .  
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

December

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### **CONTINUING THANKSGIVING**

On Thanksgiving Day as I preached I referenced Colossians 2:6-7, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Just the day prior I saw a thought provoking email with the phrase, "What if God gave back to you only the things you thanked Him for yesterday?"

This simple question prompts an assessment of whether our thankfulness to God is a trickle or a mighty river. May our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord be endless!

### **LIGHT THE CANDLE, CHASE AWAY THE DARKNESS!**

Candles are the most primitive form of humanly created light on earth today. They have persisted despite all the marvelous technologies for illumination developed over the past two centuries. Mary and Joseph would have *very carefully* utilized an oil lamp in the dingy stable where Jesus was born.

Sometimes in the evening in my office at church I will place the enormous candle with four – count 'em, four! – wicks on my desk and work by candlelight. The rest of the world fades away as the eyes adjust to the immediate surroundings and the papers just in front of me. It is peaceful, serene as I spend time in my thoughts and connect with the Word of God. I suggest that you occasionally retreat to this humble form of work to gain perspective on the lives of the ancients who toiled in cramped scriptoriums and back rooms of ancient libraries to copy, and thus preserve, the Word of God for future generations.

Let it also remind you of our duty to be a light to the world, bearers of the Christ. Though not a high powered, brilliant beacon the candle does its job well enough. We also, though not necessarily a blindingly bright example for Jesus Christ do our jobs well enough such that those in spiritual darkness will see, and come to Jesus.

### **SKELETONS IN THE FAMILY CLOSET**

Ever wish you weren't related to *that* person? Even Jesus had ignominious relatives in his family tree. The world is made up of sinners, and someone has to be related to the particular sinner you have in mind.

The genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 do more than establish Jesus' authenticity as the Messiah; they also are stark reminders that he came to deliver sinners from Hell! If Jesus is not ashamed to be associated to us by his Incarnation, then we had best take care lest we set ourselves up as being above relating to sinners, even ones in our own family!

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder

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