

# 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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## Music

*With the Lord's musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the Lord.  
2 Chronicles 7:6*

I was disappointed. Surely, it would be a wasted evening. My wife had tickets for a concert—a violinist was performing. As a child I studied violin. So, I knew—oh no! An evening of squeaks!

From beginning to end the concert was superb. Clearly, he was born to play violin. The notes were clear and full as he easily cascaded through the music—using effortlessly all seven “positions” on the instrument.

Music is a blessing. The sound of wind can be music. Birds, dolphins, crickets, coyotes—just think how much of God's creation produces music.

Angels sing. The shepherds heard them. John in his Revelation tells us he heard singing in heaven.

Heavenly singing will be perfect. There will be only perfection in heaven. Perfect pitch! Perfect harmony! Perfect rhythm!

Perhaps, who knows, with perfect hearing we may discover another ten or fifteen octaves beyond those we now know.

*I will sing a song unto the Lord.*

## Blind

*...Jesus...gave sight to many who were blind. Luke 7: 21*

You couldn't see a thing. What in the world was I doing in an airplane—when you couldn't see anything!?

Inside the small, single engine plane we were high above the jungles of Africa. We were on our way to see missionaries at Fassama, Liberia.

The harmattan (dust from Sahara) filled the sky. It was so thick you could not see ten feet in any direction. I asked the pilot, Roger Krenzin, “Isn't this dangerous?” He replied with a smile, “No, there is nothing else up here.” I figured he should know.

I couldn't help but notice that Roger would periodically tap the altimeter dial—just to be sure—since the ground also was nowhere in sight.

It is not easy to fly blind.

It is not easy to trust God—especially when we can't see where He is taking us. But, that is what true faith is—trusting when you can't see.

*Lead on, Lord.*

Sincerely,  
Paul R. Schroeder

**2014**

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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.*

January

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## **IMMANUEL**

Wait, wasn't Christmas *last* month? Yes, but the ongoing benefit of Christ's coming continues! Just as a superstar athlete may tip the scales in favor of a championship for a team, so also having Immanuel, "God with us," tips the scales in favor of our victory over Satan, sin and death!

The Christian lives with a continuing joy, an undefeatable encouragement because Christ has brought salvation! God is with us, God is for us, God is on our side, and therefore we have eternal hope! There have been all kinds of discussion in order to "Keep Christ in Christmas," which I discuss further at my Blog found at [thewordtoday.org](http://thewordtoday.org). What a feeling of contentment and joy to have God with us in the person of Jesus!

## **"HEART AND MIND CLEAN IN 2014!"**

This is our New Year's theme at Our Shepherd, which takes its cue from the penitential Psalm of King David, Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and restore a steadfast (right) spirit within me." I can think of no better personal and corporal project for us than to commit ourselves to purity of mind and spirit this year!

This entails purging ourselves of spiritually malicious media, such as violence, sexually promiscuous content, and all dissipation (wasting one's life)! It means bulking up on Bible content and spiritual songs. It means personal repentance often and recommitment to righteous living.

God's Spirit is in charge of remaking us in the image of Christ, so ask God to remake your heart, that is, your desires to conform to what is pleasing to the Lord. Just as with the body, you can't feed your soul junk and be fit and healthy. Resolve to renew your mind, as the Scriptures admonish, "No longer be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (see Romans 12:1-2).

## **THERE'S NO BIAS IN THE MEDIA, RIGHT?**

I just saw the latest news from the website [chicksontheright.com](http://chicksontheright.com) about that Russian ship which got stranded by ice in the Antarctic. It seems the mainstream media failed to report that they were climate change scientists trying to do research attempting to prove *global warming!*

God has a great sense of humor in showcasing the foolishness of mankind. While high minded Naturalists and fear mongers would scoff at the Gospel of Jesus, they will slip and fall, as though on ice, for anything! Just remember to read your "fair and unbiased" mainstream media as anything but neutral reporting!

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder