

THOUGHTS

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By the father/son team
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SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

PEOPLE

The population of the world is expanding greatly. There are 3 billion more people living now than in 1970!

In A.D. 1 there were 200 million people. It took 1800 years for the world to reach 1 billion people.

- It took 130 years to reach **2 billion** people
- It took only 30 more years to reach **3 billion** people
- Then only 15 more years to reach **4 billion** people
- In 1987, only 13 more years, we reached **5 billion** people
- By 1999, 11 years, we reached **6 billion** people

In 2012 we had **7 billion** people on earth! Of these 7 billion people,
only 2 billion claim to be Christians!!!

OVER 5 BILLION DO NOT KNOW JESUS!!!

We have work to do—let's get going!

God wants us to reach them all.

We have the technology—it can be done!

The need is money!!!

PLEASE HELP!!!

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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.*

April

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- Please prayerfully and carefully consider your anniversary offering for next month. In May we will be celebrating our 36th year of ministry. Praise God! Perhaps God will enable you to do something big for His glory!
- If you have a chance to see the film **God's Not Dead**—make every effort. It is terrific! It is especially valuable for teenagers and college students!
- I have an excellent book recommendation—**What Are You Afraid Of?** By Dr. David Jeremiah. Pick up a copy at your nearest Christian book store!

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

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BLESSED EASTER!

The Christian is always joyful in Christ because of the assurance of forgiveness of sins and the promise of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Circumstances change continually, but the joy of being a child of God is permanent. It is important for us to know that happiness is temporary. Happiness is like a mood, which can change quickly. I tell the confirmation students that if they are currently happy, someone could come by slapping them across the face and change their happiness quickly!

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Conversely, joy is a more deeply seated condition not subject to temporary conditions. I will always be the son of Paul and Sylvia Schroeder, my parents. When granted the Holy Spirit as God's gift in Baptism, you will always be the child of God, and this will not change due to whatever temporary issues or blessings you encounter today.

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Easter is an event which is the ultimate cause of joy in the believer's life, as it is the assurance of a future life in Heaven with God. Nothing which could go wrong today will alter that assurance, so be joyful! You may not be happy about everything happening in your life, but you can have joy about your anticipated resurrection from the dead – unless Christ returns while we are still alive, and we do not need to face death (see I Thessalonians 4:13-18)! Easter is the highest celebration of that assurance, so be joyful!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder