

THOUGHTS

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By the father/son team
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SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

Anniversary Offering Report

Thirty-six years ago in May we began to broadcast *The Word Today!*

From the radio audience (includes 45 former members of Our Shepherd):

Year	Number of Gifts Given	Total Offering
2010	31	\$9,962.00
2011	44	\$13,177.00
2012	19	\$5,089.00
2013	35	\$12,065.00
2014	35	\$11,722.00

From the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran:

Year	Number of Gifts Given	Total Offering
2010	101	\$65,626.00
2011	110	\$78,998.00
2012	77	\$61,601.00
2013	106	\$80,000.00
2014	94	\$81,850.00

In addition to these special anniversary offerings each year, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church also puts an enormous effort in their annual budget for The Word Today.

In 2013 the line item in the budget was \$220,000.00.

In 2014 the line item in the budget was \$226,000.00.

These budget items are always met! Praise God for a faithful parish that really carries out God's will to reach the world with the news of Jesus Christ.

No wonder God is blessing his children. They are obeying the Great Commission—and God is pleased!!!

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder



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

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IS IT ENOUGH FOR GOD TO SAVE?

There was a mother and son on a beach, when a massive wave swept ashore and took her son out to sea – and to his impending death! The mother fell to her knees and shouted, “Oh, God! Why? God, please hear me! Please give me my son back! Help me!”

Suddenly another massive wave broke on the shoreline and as it receded there was her son deposited on the beach! She ran and embraced him, then looked up, saying to God, “But, he had a hat!”

When God allows the tumult of life to engulf us, if he saves us from destruction, is it enough? Or, do we want to have our life perfect, like it was, and if not we'll complain? The joke reminds me of the apostle Paul's suffering his “thorn in the flesh,” following his spiritually euphoric experience, perhaps an out of body Near Death Experience, recorded in 2 Corinthians chapter 12. He had been at the edge of death several times, and perhaps during those daunting episodes, it is conjectured, he suffered the ailment which troubled him. God's answer to his pleas was simply, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness (v.9).”

Is it good enough for you that God saves you? Or do you need to have every stitch of clothing secured for eternity? Are you willing to suffer loss of material items, temporal security, loosening earthly bonds of time and friendship as your eternal security is ensured? If God miraculously delivers your boy, do you carp about the lost hat?

We are urged, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:2-3).” The New Testament consistently directs our attention to things of spiritual importance, not on requesting God to fulfill our expectations materially, or even to preserve our worldly welfare. God has not committed to preserving our current estate, but only to preserving *people*.

God has redeemed you in Jesus Christ for eternal life just as surely as the boy was returned to his mother. We need to keep things in perspective and let go of the selfish concern over the hat.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with **GOD'S WORD**