

THOUGHTS

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By the father/son team
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SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

EMMAUS

...Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them...Luke 24:15

It was a lonely walk. It seemed so pointless. What did it all mean? Those two disciples who headed for Emmaus were so discouraged.

Then Christ appeared to them. At first, they did not recognize Him. Jesus wanted to teach them some important truths. What a beautiful sermon that must have been. He unfolded the Old Testament to them, showing how the prophets revealed Him to be the Messiah. I wish we had that sermon recorded in the Bible.

Then Christ revealed Himself. What a difference. Now they were filled with joy! And hope! Now they hurried back to Jerusalem to share the news.

If you are hopeless, wandering along a lonely road to your “Emmaus”—be assured Christ is with you! You may not have recognized Him. Pray that He will reveal Himself to you. Your life will change. Hope will return and you will proclaim Him to others.

Lord, reveal Yourself to me.

DOUBTS

...Unless I see the nail marks in His hands...I will not believe it. John 20:25

Everyone doubts. Doubting is not unique. The disciples doubted. Every one of them—not just Thomas.

Even John the Baptist doubted and sent his followers to get verification—if Christ was the One for whom they were waiting.

Doubting is normal. What matters is how you deal with your doubts.

If you take pride in your doubts—boast about your mental acumen—parade your wisdom, etc.—you are to be pitied. Your doubts then can lead to unbelief and a falling away from God.

If, instead, you bring your doubts to God, they will be resolved. Not only will they be resolved—they will be victoriously resolved. Your faith will grow.

Thomas, after his doubts were resolved, declared, “My Lord and My God”, as his faith in Christ was restored.

When doubts come, take them to Him. He turns doubts to faith.

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

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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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JESUS NOT VERBOSE IN PRAYER

Lately I have been researching Jesus' prayers in preparation for a sermon series on the subject. Though I have seen these prayers many times, it did not strike me previously how *brief* they are! They are actually quite short, the majority of them only a couple sentences!

The exception is John chapter 17, where Jesus prays extensively. This is understandable, given that he is on the eve of his crucifixion and earnest to impart final thoughts and blessings to his disciples. One last prayer for their welfare at the end of his pre-crucifixion ministry seems to be the theme. But in general, when he is on the road conducting ministry Jesus prayers are to the point.

What does that mean for us when it comes to prayer? An immediate takeaway I would think is that we need not be loquacious; just a word or two will suffice. Perhaps we do harm to those whom we wish to learn to pray if we exemplify lofty, verbose prayers. Maybe God would prefer sincere, simple thoughts. I'll leave it at that.

YOU'RE SAFE; BLACK HOLES DON'T EXIST

In yet another example of why pop science should be taken with a galactic grain of salt, Stephen Hawking admitted that his error of 40 years was to go on as though black holes were real. In a paper entitled, "Information Preservation and Weather Forecasting for Black Holes," he admits, "The absence of event horizons mean that there are no black holes..." Hawking called it his biggest blunder. OOPS! So now he's reversed himself, as happens with sad regularity in the pop scientific community.

I loved politician Michelle Bachman's response, which is spot on, "Actually, Dr. Hawking, our biggest blunder as a society was ever listening to people like you," said Rep. Bachmann. "If black holes don't exist, then other things you scientists have been trying to foist on us probably don't either, like climate change and evolution." *Precisely; radically obtuse theories get favored status and trotted out as practical facts in textbooks and media to indoctrinate generations of people, then are retracted decades later!*

Be reminded, there is nothing inherently superior about science over the Scriptures! Science is conducted by fallible, and sometimes incompetent and unscrupulous, humans, and is subject to error. No Christian should blithely accept the pronouncements of Stephen Hawking or any other scientist. I find it amazing how many times scientific "discoveries" end up being overturned, while the Scriptures continue to amass confirmation through archaeological finds.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder