

THOUGHTS

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

SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

"WILL YOU BE IN HEAVEN"?

J For most of my ministry I have searched for a good tract about becoming a Christian. I haven't found many-and none that I really liked. Some were "wordy" and long, some not scriptural, etc.

So, last December I wrote one of my own! You were sent the tract in the Thought's mailing a few months ago. We printed 27 thousand of them to distribute.

Now we are enclosing another sample for you—and asking you to help distribute them!

We hope you will order at least 30-50 of them. Make sure you get enough for all your relatives, neighbors and friends. Leave some in restaurants, hotels and gas stations as you travel!

To encourage you, we are going to send you them FREE of charge!

Let us know how many you would like. Thanks!!

TINGLE

Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears it tingle. Jeremiah 19:3

L Preaching in America is in trouble. The problem stems largely from the preacher's desire to be "enjoyed." Everyone wants friends; no one wants enemies. Why bear bad tidings and run the risk of offense and disfavor?

The prophets often brought an unpleasant message as they called the people to repentance.

Paul was so pointed with his messages that people tried to kill him. One way or another they were going to shut him up.

Christ and John the Baptist, by their calls for repentance and change, often had listeners who became enemies.

Scripture warns against preachers who merely "tickle" the ears of the listeners—by saying pleasant, non-challenging things.

Proclaimers of God's Word must also "tingle" the ears of the hearers as they call for repentance, change and commitment.

2015 We are called to die to self. That is not a popular message!

Tingle my ears, Lord.

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

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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.*

July

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HINTS OF MORTALITY

I had my first hospitalization at age 52 this week. I went to get a colonoscopy and in preparation the EKG showed I have an "Atrial flutter"! In brief, my upper chamber is wailing away at three times the rate of the bottom chamber. Thankfully, my bottom chamber is too stupid to know it's supposed to keep up, for if it did I would experience a heart rate of about 210 and rapidly approach cardiac failure (read deadly racing heart). My medical condition, if more typical, would put me in grave danger, but on the other hand as one nurse my particular defect is "beautiful" because it keeps my pulse a nearly perfect 70-71 beats per minute. The doctors and nurses are all surprised; a heart defect which operates with nearly perfect precision and stays consistent even when the heart is under stress!

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My grandmother Schroeder when surprised used to exclaim, "Oh, my heart!" Now I can also claim, "Oh, my heart," but with special gratitude that the flutter can be treated. An "ablation", in which one of the Atrium's pathways causing the flutter is scarred, puts an end to the stimulation causing the flutter. Sounds good, right? I seem to be an ideal candidate for Ablation, so it will be on the schedule this summer. It is anticipated to be a one time fix, good for life. I covet your prayers for a good medical procedure to rectify the flutter.

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TOO FOCUSED ON THE FLESH

Many years ago my wife, Connie, had rhinoplasty – a nose job. It wasn't for vanity's sake, but because she had 5 diversions resulting in continuous sinus infections and swelling which prevented her from breathing at all through her nose. The surgeon who broker her nose and bored out her passages suggested a nip off her nose; why not while the entire thing had to be worked on?

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That's a lot different than surgeries to remain constantly 20-something! A recent Time Magazine article suggests that plastic surgery is becoming seen as a necessity to be considered "taking care of one's self". I guess it's unacceptable to have a drooping eyelid or yellowed teeth anymore. How revolting that someone actually look normal, i.e. that they are actually aging! Can you think of anything more undignified? The shame!

I am always amazed at the seemingly limitless capacity of humans for excess, evil, and also sadly, vanity. This is largely a woman's activity in that 92 percent of cosmetic procedures in America are done for women, and breast augmentation is the top procedure. However, men contribute to this mightily, as too many objectify women and fail to respect women beyond their appearance. The Word of God values women dressing decently and impressing by, "... good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God (see I Timothy 2:9-10). If only those were the measures of a woman's worth, our individual esteem and societal values would be much elevated!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder