

# THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## **JOIN ME ON CRUISE OF GERMANY!**

I hope you can join me and my wife, Connie, on a scenic and enriching cruise of Germany in October! We will be seeing Prague, Dresden, Berlin and Wittenberg, the home of the Lutheran Reformation, among other towns! The deadline for booking the trip is June, and is limited to 18 people. I hope you can come along!

## **CHRONIC UNHAPPINESS**

I saw a listing of the "Habits of Chronically Unhappy People" which I thought I would share:

1. Complaining
2. Staying home
3. Ignoring Problems
4. Constantly looking to the future
5. Not improving
6. Seeing self as victim
7. Trying to keep up with neighbors
8. Blowing things out of proportion
9. Pessimism
10. Spending too much time acquiring stuff

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Some of these "habits" may be unavoidable, such as a stay at home mom not getting out socializing, or a person who was raped or robbed feeling like a victim. We all have intrusions and burdens to bear. However, many things on this list are *habitual*. In Christ we should not be habitually exercising the attitudes and behaviors on this list.

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## **HOW DEATH IS DEFEATED**

The Apostle Peter, preaching the first recorded Christian sermon in the New Testament following Christ's resurrection, highlights the fact that, "...God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him (2:24)." Peter was alluding to the truth that death only operates on sinful people, and since Christ is sin-free death could not retain its grip on him.

Jesus took upon himself our guilt and carried it to the cross, where he fully paid for our sins and mediated for us before the Father. Once that had been done, death was *incapable* of holding him in the grave. Death operates by sin, and sin convicts us because of God's law, his holy will, which we have broken. However, when we are attributed Jesus' righteousness, then we, too, have victory over the grave. The final fix for us is when this sin infested body is done away with, to be remade at the resurrection. At that time death will have nothing to act upon us!

**2016**

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Recently it was discovered that a pesky problem with my furnace at home running intermittently, making noise, and at times being hesitant to start up was caused by one small crack in an air hose which was responsible for holding a vacuum in that portion of the furnace! The solution was to simply snip off the affected portion of the hose and reattach it; all of the symptoms of ill operation disappeared! Similarly, just as the sinless Christ could not be bound by death, so also when we have been purged from sin in our body death will be ineffectual, as it will have no sinful weaknesses to exploit!

#### **UPGRADED LIFE**

At the post office a distracted woman approached my car, thinking she was walking to hers. It was understandable as they were the same color and of the same make. We smiled at the common mistake, and as I drove away slowly I lowered the window, "I see you were looking for an upgrade to your car!" She replied, "... I think I need an upgraded life!"

Indeed, how many would love to have an enhanced life. The Christian does have an enhanced life; we have gone from hopelessness to certainty of salvation. We have gone from death and separation from God to forgiveness and eternal celebration in communion with Him! Just the thought should upgrade our day!

#### **PRAY FOR INDONESIA**

I will be traveling to Indonesia in May to explore future expansion for The Word Today. We do not know how such expansion would be funded, but if God desires it, it will happen! I do believe that the Lord could power future growth through wills, that is bequests to The Word Today. That may be the means by which our work grows indefinitely. I ask that you consider adding The Word Today as a beneficiary of your estate, so that your work in the Lord will continue long after you are received into glory!

There are 200 million people in Indonesia, 99% of which are Muslim. They desperately need to learn of the Biblical Jesus, about his work as the Son of God in powerfully carrying our sins to the cross to redeem us. As is the case with all the languages we broadcast, our listeners need a pure, accurate message of salvation in Christ. Thank you for supporting our efforts to reach those who need to hear the most!

#### **PASSION**

Recently I have been preaching about David, who was a man after God's own heart (see the Apostle Paul's sermon in Acts 13:16-22). Enthusiasm, passion for God, seems to be at the core of pleasing God. It should cause us to ask ourselves, "How much zeal and passion do I exhibit for the Lord?"

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder