

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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WE ARE TOO BUSY AND TOO DISTRACTED

Even people who wish to stay close to God are too distracted, predominantly by a high pace of life and electronics. I find I have to purposefully focus on staying in communication with the Lord. If I just let myself go through the day I am carried along by a tide of scheduled activities and interruptions.

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It is easy to see why surveys are showing the number of people who are praying is dropping. From the early 1980's through 2014 people who identified their religion as "none" shot up from 7% to 21%. Those who never attend worship doubled to 26%. Those who say they never pray rose from 3% to 15%. Those who say they don't believe in God rose from 13% to 22%. In the 1980's 12% of those under 30 said they were not religious; now almost one third of them say they are not religious. It is clear that decades of godless hedonism and Darwinism have been turning the culture into disbelievers.

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Here is the most interesting statistic, however, related to the belief in afterlife. *Those who believe in an afterlife stayed flat at 79%, but non-churchgoers who believe in an afterlife increased from 7% to 15%.* (Source: "Number Who Pray Drops" by Scott Travis in the Sun Sentinel) What this statistic indicates is that increasingly people who do believe in the afterlife think they can get there without any commitment to God, almost as though he owes it to them. I would expect this kind of attitude to grow in the West. There is already a disconnect which has taken place in regards to behavior; Christians no longer think they need to *live* the Christian life. Of course, the only legitimate Christian life is the one that is *lived*.

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CLIMATE ALARM AGENDA TO FURTHER SOCIALISM

An editorial in the Investor's Business Daily from 3/29/16 entitled "Another Climate Alarmist Admits Real Motive Behind Warming Scare," insists that the real agenda in discussion of weather panic is *redistribution of wealth via implementation of socialism*. Former United Nations climate official Ottmar Edenhofer stated, "One has to free oneself from the illusion that the international climate policy is environmental policy.... We redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy." About five years ago he also said, "... the next world climate summit in Cancun is actually an economy summit during which the distribution of the world's resources will be negotiated." The goal is to choke the economies of developed nations while allowing less developed nations to run full steam ahead, leading to economic chaos in developed countries in favor of the less economically developed countries.

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The editorial concludes, "This is how the warming alarmist community thinks. It wants to frighten, intimidate and then assume command. It needs a "crisis" to take advantage of, a hobgoblin to menace the people, so that they will beg for protection from the imaginary threat. The alarmists' "better world" is one in which they rule a global welfare state." So, capitalism is blamed for wrecking our world, and the purported solution is economic socialism. Why do I get the feeling the future is full of pitfalls for all humanity, and that the Christian needs to stay close to the Lord to have any semblance of peace in their mind?

IF IT CAN'T BE MEASURED, IT DOESN'T EXIST

That's not my perspective, but I find it is the viewpoint of many people. I run into this philosophy, one which its adherents hold as a "scientific" approach to life, quite often in my pastime of audio reviewing. Particularly contentious in the hobby is the debate over whether aftermarket cables such as power cords can influence the sound of an audio system. It doesn't help that some of them are priced exorbitantly, and thus cause suspicion of the manufacturer's motives.

Typically "objectivist" listeners, some of whom have degrees in science or technology, dismiss the influence of swapping cables. "Subjectivists" as myself, who are actually *trying them*, usually insist we hear the changes. The impasse is usually due to people who "think" versus people who *do*. I assert that the Lord has given us sensationally sensitive, though imperfect, ears to catch changes which instruments cannot measure. So, the debate rages on.

Some are so confident of their theories that they cannot be swayed to even try out anything but the stock cables, no matter how inexpensive. They are convinced their logic and theory is infallible. Occasionally I am successful in debating such that one of these people finally gives it a shot. The result? Usually they are astounded, because they, too, hear the changes despite not being able to explain it. It wasn't measurable, but they heard it! I often follow up with a tangential discussion of faith and God, as their confidence in "science" and their assuredness has been checked.

It's quite like faith in God; just as some audiophiles write off whatever they do not think is empirical, so also some dismiss God because He can't be "measured." One arrogant comment I read recently suggested there is *no evidence that God exists*. The hubris in such a comment is astounding, considering we are surrounded by vastly more complex structures and creatures than *anything* humans have ever made! It is simply disingenuous deny such things as evidence. One may disagree over whether nature is made or accidental, but it is intellectual suicide to suggest there is no admissible evidence of a Designer.

Just as my new audiophile engineer friend finally tried and found cables "work", so the Bible simply asks people to, "Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)." Faith in God "works" if a people will only humble themselves to give Him a genuine chance.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder