

THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY
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Thoughts
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THE FARMER GOT FOOLED

A farmer one day while plowing looked into the sky and saw a cloud in the form two giant letters, "P...C..." He mused, what would this message God was showing him mean? Finally, he concluded that God wanted him to "Preach Christ." So, he quit farming, struggled through college and was having a miserable time in Seminary with the Biblical languages. In exasperation he prayed, "God, you called me to preach Christ, so why aren't you blessing me?" God replied, "Son, you misunderstood my message; I was telling you to plant corn!"

Do we sometimes misinterpret God's "messages" to us? Best to rely heavily upon the Word, which is unambiguous!

GOOD AND BAD RELIGIOUS MOVIES

Two movies have been released recently, "Is Genesis History", a documentary, and "The Shack," a spiritually themed fictional work based on the book by same title. I read the book, and from my perspective as a Christian leader it was awful. It has nice touchy feely emotional content, but it is anti-Biblical in many ways. The author purportedly wrote it to comfort a child about death. The problem is, The Shack contains much anti-Christian content and plays fast and loose with such critical doctrines as the nature of the Trinity. It is the spiritual nutritional equivalent of setting a plate of Twinkies before a child for supper.

The movie "Is Genesis History" in comparison is a six course meal! This well researched, beautifully filmed documentary rests upon interviews with a dozen operational scientists in a variety of disciplines. A strong case is made that science supports a literal, historical reading of Genesis, including the accounts of the creation, Fall into sin, Tower of Babel, and more. Sadly, this move was on limited showing as the Truth Project which funded it does not have the deep pockets of Hollywood. Please go to the site isgenesishistory.com where you can follow links to a deeper experience.

PASTOR PAUL'S SURGERY

Pastor Paul has been suffering for some time from Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus; his spinal cord has been leaking slowing into his cranium, so the fluid has built up pressure on his brain. The family had been unaware of this pernicious condition and as he was slipping in memory we thought it might be due to classic aging ailments. Thanks to Dana, my sister, who matched his symptoms with the condition he was tested and found to be afflicted. If not for that diagnosis Pastor Paul would have continued to deteriorate until incapacitated.



*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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The fix is a surgery to put a shunt in which will drain the fluid from his skull to his stomach! , He *had the surgery today, Thursday, March 30th*. We praise God that He has given such awesome gifts to mankind in knowledge and skill to enable healing of the mind! Pastor Paul is recovering and if he were not doped up from the surgery I know he would personally wish you all God's peace. So, I will do so for him; please join us in offering thanksgiving prayers to our Mighty God!

FAITH MEANS FRICTION WITH THE WORLD... BUT GROWTH FOR THE KINGDOM!

Just before his crucifixion in a closed meeting, the Passover meal, with his Apostles Jesus told them, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33b)." How true were his words! The next day his followers would see him hanging on the cross and they would fear for their lives – the world would be after them next!

We are to expect trouble with the world, meaning our being at odds with those who hold an anti-Christian world view. Practically speaking it means being the recipient of mockery, lies, and attempted shaming. For some Christians in cultures hostile to the cross of Christ it means bodily threats, harassment, and at times fleeing one's home.

The other day I saw an encouraging article online which noted that there are large numbers of Muslim emigrants in Europe converting to Christianity! Why? *Because they are now free to do so!* They lived under suppression and the legalism of Islam for so long that they were literally deathly afraid to become Christian. Now they can!

This sparked a thought in my mind in regard to the distrust and fear of emigrants to North America. We are blind to the future and how not only our own country, but the world will look in 25 or 50 years. *We think* we know how it will go, but only the Lord knows. There is a latent fear that emigration will steer America away from the Lord and toward idols.

What if over the past few decades' proclamation of the Gospel overseas has been planting seeds which are now sprouting among the Arab population migrating to Europe? What if there is a mass influx of new Christians to supplant the desiccated Christianity of Europe? What if someday the infusion of Arabs to America has a large Christian component? I would praise God! Far better an international Christian community fervent for the Lord than a dead WASP church! Are you thinking the same thing I am? Could The Word Today, which is being Broadcast in several Arab dialects, be a part of this wonderful shift from Allah to Christ?

Blessings!

Douglas W. Schroeder