# THOUGHTS

## BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

### 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORD TODAY!

How splendid that the Lord has brought us through the Covid-19 crisis and kept TWT sound fiscally and strong in our broadcasts globally! Many Christian missions took a horrendous hit and will take years to recover. They are sending out "Help us," messages – frankly, many of them were poorly managed, relying upon "faith pledges," and making expansions of their ministry even when not funded.

Pastor Paul established a very sensible, God pleasing fiscal plan for TWT, one which never extends beyond the gifts of the people. Your offerings and gifts determine the extent to which TWT grows. I concur with Pastor Paul's philosophy on this matter. We would discuss through the years how short-sighted it was of ministries to overreach, then send pleading messages for support – frankly, we feel it is irresponsible leadership and poor stewardship. We did not want TWT to operate that way. Rather, through continued gifts and sensible investment of any special offerings The Word Today has a strong mission that withstood a serious test this past year! Praise God! As I hoped, we are emerging strong, and I foresee the potential to begin adding new languages in the nearer future! Thank the Lord that as critical a mission as evangelizing people in the hard to reach and unreached languages has been continuing, and with our continued support will grow further!

One of the primary goals Pastor Paul had for TWT was sustainability. He would talk about the program operating until the return of Christ! Praise God, TWT does have that capacity; the offerings and investments, as well as several years of recorded programs, allow for indefinite airing of the program! The question for us is, how many will hear? How many languages will be reached? It costs about \$12-14K per year to reach a language group, literally hundreds of thousands to millions of people for a year! I also remember how Pastor Paul would regularly say, "It's the widows, those who are not rich, who are the real sacrificial givers!" There is much truth to that; those in the lower income bracket are giving powerfully if they tithe, while a 10% commitment is not such a big deal to someone with much greater means. Sadly, I recall reading in the book The Millionaire Next Door that those who are net worth millionaires often live by the principle, "Charity begins at home," and give approximately 1-2% of their wealth away. GREEDY! They will have to answer to the Lord for that sin!

Some of our motivated Partners can supply a gift to reach an entire people group, but others who have so little are working hard to be a part of the action! God is pleased with all our dedicated Partners and church members who have as one of their greatest desires to get as many people to Heaven as possible! Isn't it wonderful? The efficiency of spreading the Gospel by radio, and now by the TWT website, is incredible! Give thanks to God for such a Bible oriented, Christ honoring ministry!

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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.

### THE GLORY OF GOD

**APRIL** 

This coming weekend I will be preaching on the topic of God's glory. Have you ever seen a listing in a Bible concordance of how many references there are to God's glory? It is one of the largest, containing dozens upon dozens of passages! God's glory is evident in Creation and his acts of redemption throughout the Bible. He calls for human recognition of his majesty, and actively destroys those who willfully oppose him, while redeeming sinners who love Him.

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Equal to the glory ascribed to God the Father, whom we credit with taking lead among the Holy Trinity during Creation, is the redemption by Jesus through his suffering and resurrection, as well as the Holy Spirit's indwelling in the believer and empowering the proclamation of the Gospel to evangelize the world and build out the Church. The Bible ends, as you might suspect, gloriously! The book of Revelation, so often misunderstood by nominal Christians as a scary book, is nothing of the sort! It is replete with militant songs chanted by angels, martyrs, and "Elders" (mysterious; we do not know their identities) to the glory of the Father and the Lamb of God, Jesus. The New Jerusalem, the symbol of our future home with God, shines with the brilliance of God's glory! Enjoy learning in the Scriptures as you encounter words such as grace, favor, joy, blessing, friend, save, and of course the love of God!

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### **TAKE A CLOSER LOOK**

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God's glory is displayed in Creation, even at the most miniscule levels! Lately I have been enjoying watching YouTube videos of images taken by scanning electron microscope. Wow, are those images fascinating! Putting nearly anything under the molecular magnifying glass is astounding! Have you seen a close up of a dust mite, the surface of a penny, pollen, white and red blood cells, the eyes of a spider, or the surface of a butterfly's wing lately? The most horror movie-like image was... the face of a tapeworm! Ugh, is it brutal looking, with as vicious an appearance as those images of the denizens of the deep ocean! It is a very good thing that such nasties are small! That reminds me of the nasty creatures buried in the fossil record (layers)! A lot of them were vicious looking, and dinosaurs sure were not all cuddly!

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Get a copy of the book The Design and Complexity of the Cell by Jeffery P. Tomkins and be overwhelmed by the incredible planning and execution of the cells that make all life forms! Feed your mind good, godly things, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8)."

Blessings, Douglas W. Schroeder