

THOUGHTS

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BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

GETTING THE WORK DONE IN RUSSIA

I was pleased to learn recently that our broadcast in the Russian language has continued despite a transmitter that was being used in Ukraine being destroyed. Our partners in broadcasting found two other locations from which we can transmit the signal and continue to reach those affected by the war. How wonderful that a workaround has been given to us, and that your gifts can continue to reach the suffering people of Ukraine and Russia! Thank you for your love of the Gospel to support TWT!

THE WORD TODAY'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us for TWT's 45th Anniversary worship service and meal following! Our guest speaker will be Ralf Stores from Trans Word Radio, our partner in broadcasting the Gospel around the world. We celebrate God's goodness to us in this ministry and your support. If you can join us, please contact Our Shepherd Lutheran's church office at 414-421-2060 or send a message through the website, ourshepherdlutheran.org. I hope you will be able to join us!

“IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD”

For many of us, this phrase was a platitude, a nice thought that required no personal struggle or sacrifice. Increasingly, it will require both. As I have said for decades, the paganizing of America is accelerating – actually, it's not only moving faster, it is precipitating, congealing into a social mess.

Our Christian witness is extremely important now! Jesus used vivid analogies to highlight the contrast between believers and the world. Christ encourages us, “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world (Matthew 5: 13a, 14a).” A Christian – that is, the Bible-based Christian as opposed to secularized, nominal Christian – has a fundamentally different worldview and lifestyle. We act and talk differently than secular persons. The Holy Spirit fills us to confess Jesus and resist worldliness, no matter the cost.

The early Christians were not popular, but the Lord added to their number daily (see Acts 2:42-47). People who are tired of the burden of sin and who long for love will be drawn to Christ. We are the ones advertising Jesus to the world. We are to be tough on sin, but merciful, including giving of our time and money, to those who are hurting. This is a powerful inducement for them to become followers of Jesus!

2023

The Word
Today
Box 77
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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.*

SOMETIMES YOUR SUNNY DAY IS A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE CLOUDS

A tiny thin spot opened in the cloud right where the sun was, and I could almost see the bright orb unobscured. That might be the extent of my sunny day. Sometimes it goes that way. You desperately want sunshine, but the clouds impede. But God is still there, and his outstandingly average (in astronomical terms) star shines to keep life happening here. It's the same with His love for us in His Son, Jesus.

FORGIVE YOU!

Public discourse has become more coarse, evidenced by the frequency of the F-word. Whereas vulgarity has frowned upon by a largely Christian society generations ago, now it is commonplace. Christians are not to be worldly in their speech, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Ephesians 4:29).”

In pharisaical form, there are believers who assiduously guard their mouths to show themselves to be godly. Meanwhile, they imbibe in the intellectual equivalent of recreational drugs as they uncritically absorb Evolutionary propaganda pumped out by the world. Talk about straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! (see Matthew 23:23-24).

A gentleman named Harry and I have come up with a way to turn the world’s grunge into a humorous positive form of expression. As we were discussing the topic of forgiveness, we considered it to be “the other F-word”. We then mimicked an abusive demeanor as we harshly said, “Forgive you!” It was hilarious; we had found a great way to beat the world at their own game! I hope it spreads like wildfire, with Christians taking the world’s trash and turning it into something good.

Christians are empowered to use God’s forgiveness to absolve others. Peter, then all the Apostles were given instructions on how to forgive others (see Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20). The power of forgiveness is not limited to church leaders, but all believers in the New Testament are exhorted to forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven them (see Colossians 3:12-17). You don’t need to go to a priest, but the members of the church can receive the confession of sins, pray for such a person, and turn them from their sin (see James 5:13-20).

The next time someone makes a mistake and apologizes, adopt a mockingly angry posture and with a smirk, say, “Forgive you!” If they don’t get it, tell them Christians have their own F-word, forgiveness! It’s a brilliant way to bless people rather than abuse them. It’s also funny! Let’s be the ones running around yelling, “Forgive you!” And let’s mean it!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD