

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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AN ALLY

Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of the founder of Hamas, is a spiritual ally. He became Christian and fled the Middle East, a necessary departure because he would surely be killed if he stayed. He is now helping the West to be more efficient in battling that terrorist group.

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Not everyone turns from righteousness to wickedness. While millions of soft, pampered, entitled people in the West fawn over Darwinism and practice paganism, a few children of radical Muslims are rethinking their religion, chiefly because of the hate and violence it espouses. Note carefully what he said in an interview on Fox News, "Hamas is not a national movement. Hamas is a religious movement with the goal of establishing an Islamic state." Who are you going to believe regarding that assessment? Will you believe the liberal media and administration, which downplay the clear militant religious impulse of Hamas, or will you believe a man who as a son of a founding member of Hamas was repulsed by the killing of so many Palestinians that he rejected the organization?

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The interview with Mosab is gut-level and includes a lot of discussion about military tactics. It is the antithesis of the false narrative being fed to the public, that Hamas cares about its own people. Combine that with the new revelation that hundreds of the terrorist organization's own rockets are falling on Palestinian people and killing them, and it becomes clear that Jihadists have no concern for saving the lives of Palestinians or Jews as they seek to impose Islam regionally.

As a Christian leader, I am pleased that Mosab has been brought to Christ and is bold to speak the truth. He knows there will be people who want him dead. But praise God, the Spirit of Christ in him is giving him boldness like that of the Apostle Paul. God can raise up critically important people for His purposes, and often they are the ones who have walked away from the hate and violence of false religion. They have found the true prophet of Peace, Jesus. See the book he has written, [Son of Hamas](#).

THE MOST HORRIBLE THING

"It's the most horrible thing," said the bank manager to another customer. I was nearby and not eavesdropping but waiting for my turn to sympathize with her. The word had gotten around that her daughter had died suddenly, and bank customers were trying to show their love.

As we had frank spiritual discussions through the years about our struggles to help our wayward child find stability, she knew I was a safe person to share her question of God. She came out with it directly, lamenting that after all the struggle, the years of trying to get her daughter on the right track and free from addiction, it had happened! Her daughter recently

2023

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November

was in her right mind and the relationship became better. Now, she had found her daughter dead in her apartment. Questions swirled in the mother's mind, but chiefly this one; after all the effort, the pain, the struggle to help her daughter find wholeness, why would the Lord take her so soon after recovery? Was there to be no period of joy and togetherness?

My answer was simple, that her daughter was ready. She was not ready previously, and had the young woman died in a state of rebellion or addiction the pain of loss would have been far more intense. As her daughter died addiction-free and in a better relationship with her parents, the major issues were resolved. She was in faith and ready to die. In the light of eternity, it was critical that her daughter died mentally and spiritually whole but not critical to have additional time with loved ones here.

Death is nearly the most horrible thing, but there is one thing worse, knowing someone died without Christ. That is truly hopeless. It is critical for our loved ones that they know we died in firm faith in Jesus. Please do not leave them hanging, hoping. Make sure they know you love the Lord and are pursuing becoming a better follower of Christ. That means more than just saying it. It means living your faith in the disciplines of the faith (worship, learning the Word, prayer, and serving in some form by using your gifts/abilities). It is one of the biggest gifts you can give to your family and friends! When someone is new in faith or just recommitting themselves, they don't have a long track record of works, but that is ok. Commitment shows over time.

The bank manager is enduring the sting of death (see I Corinthians chapter 15), the visceral pain of the loss of a loved one. I lovingly reminded her of Pastor Paul's reset statement at such a time, "We do not have a crisis. A crisis is entering eternity without Jesus." The bank manager and I will talk, and she will heal because she knows her daughter was a follower of Jesus. She is going through the second most horrible thing. But she does not have to endure the most horrible thing.

ARE YOU READY?

The snow has come, the first of the season. Is your snowblower ready and fueled up? Are shovels handy? Is there a snowbrush in your car? Jesus taught his followers to read the signs of the times just as we read the signs of the seasons (see Luke 12:54-56). Some pay attention while others dismiss hints and reminders.

Christ will return. He tells us to be ready, and watchful. We are to be doing what Christians do, not what the world does. We are to be in such a state that when He comes, we are excited and not apprehensive. The snow is a reminder. Are you ready?

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder