

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

F

BEND OR BREAK

As I look out from my office upon the wintry scene, I see trees that seem so strong and immovable bending under the strain of the 11" of heavy snowfall. They strain to remain upright, but the weight of the snow pushes them against their natural bent. Some were not flexible enough and have snapped, while others are turned down such that their branches scrape the ground.

E

B

We are like trees that inevitably must bend to God's will. His will is good for us, even when sometimes it seems quite heavy to bear. If we refuse to bend to it, we may snap. Spiritual pliability in God's hands is wise, especially when we cannot control the spiritual weather.

R

SHELDON LIVES THE GOOD LIFE

I couldn't resist sending an image of my 90-year-old mother playing a pinball machine to the guys in my audiophile group. The surprising aspect of the picture was that the pinball machine was in her own living room! She had recently visited another person's home in the retirement facility in which she lives, and that person had a small collection of vintage pinball machines.

U

A

Mom was hooked! She has always been crazy about pinball but for decades has not had many chances to play. The circumstances worked out that she was able to afford a used machine and she got one! I never would have thought that mom would put a little arcade in her own house, and I have never seen her act on an impulse purchase so quickly! I am happy for her that she can have such fun.

R

One of my friends responded to my email announcing it with the statement, "Sheldon lives the good life." Presuming he was referring to a cultural saying, perhaps in reference to the TV sitcom "Young Sheldon," I admitted my ignorance. My friend replied, "Spellcheck error". He had meant to say she lives the good life.

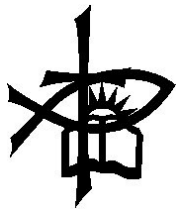
Y

What a confluence of culture and technology we see today! As I type this segment at home, in the other room my wife is watching "Love American Style" on Oldies TV! There seems to be more sanity associated with the past, even in what was deemed excessive at the time. Pinball was a hot game and highly addictive in its day. "Love American Style" pushed the boundaries of propriety on TV.

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Given the range of negative outcomes possible with the overuse of technology and the forms of it today, my mom and wife may have it right to opt for retro entertainment!



*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

YOU CAN BE SURE

The most popular tract that my father, Pastor Paul wrote is entitled, "Will You Be in Heaven? You Can Be Sure!" It follows the classic evangelism outline of introducing the reader to the need for repentance from sin, God's solution in giving us the Savior, Jesus, and an invitation to receive Jesus as our Lord and Redeemer. The assurance of salvation lies not in our works but in our wonderful Savior, Jesus. Because of the Lord's mercy and grace to us in Jesus, we can be sure our sins are forgiven and that as children of God, we have a place in Heaven prepared for us!

As a Christian who is certain that God's love for me is boundless and his kindness to forgive my sins is constant, I know that He is my creator. I do not give credence to philosophies that suggest that matter self-organized or that aliens brought life to Earth. I trust the Word of God, the Bible, when it teaches the origin of life on earth.

Consequently, when I see images designed to support the notion of aliens, I am sure it is a ruse or misinformation. There is a new image of what some would claim is debris from a crashed alien craft on Mars making the rounds on the Internet. The very moment I saw it, I knew it was not from an alien craft but from an object made by humans. As would be expected by rational, informed people, it is of human origin, "The wreckage seems [sic] is actually a component known as the backshell, which is the top half of the landing capsule in which the Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter arrived in to [sic] Mars."

People with Swiss cheese worldview, with holes in it due to a lack of acknowledgment of God and too great a dependency upon man's ignorance, as exhibited in Neo-Darwinism, are open to such ridiculous notions as miniature crashed alien craft on Mars. I had a good laugh seeing the purported debris field at several feet. The circumference of the debris indicates the craft would hold approximately 3" tall aliens! Of course, the image does not show the wide-angle view of the plain on which the debris sits because that would immediately falsify the notion of it being from an alien craft.

Such nonsense reminds me of the video footage of a tall pine tree being taken down violently and the associated commentary suggesting that Bigfoot was ripping out trees from the forest. Again, when a person does not put their trust in the Creator, their mind is like a trash can that is open to all sorts of inane and harmful ideas. The Christian wears a suit of armor spiritually, which repels much of the useless and harmful thoughts of the world (see Ephesians chapter 6 for discussion of the armor of God).

[Flying Saucer? 'Otherworldly' Wreckage on Mars Discovered by NASA \(msn.com\)](#)

BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Matthew 5:13-16)

Make sure your faith is seen and impactful! What good is faith that has no intensity?

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD