

THOUGHTS

By the father/son team
Pastor Paul R Schroeder
Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

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It has been a very slow start to the year! I have been gone from my desk for almost 4 months—mostly struggling with my cancer and its chemotherapy treatments. It looks like I have about another month before I start feeling better. I appreciate your prayers! Thank you!

The first three months of this year were the slowest ever. In 2014 the gifts the first quarter were \$19,403.00. This year they were \$7,870.00—a drop of 60 percent. In those three months only 23 of our partners responded. *One* of our partners gave 61 percent of the total.

April was much better! We gave \$3,745.00! I am hopeful we can set some new records and get back into a more generous pattern. Our faithful and generous partners are “holding us in there” for the Lord!

We are reaching more people every month, and we are adding new translations to our web page.

Sylvia and I are still planning on retiring in September of this year. Our plan is to move to Florida. Our hope is that Our Shepherd congregation with Pastor Doug will continue to move forward with The Word Today. May God bless their effort along with our partners in the radio audience!

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Dayspring

...The Dayspring from on high has visited us...Luke 1:78 (KJV)

He is risen! The Dayspring from on high has sprung. Jesus Christ is Risen!

Let the sea give a wave offering. The the trees lift up their arms in praise. Let the plants breathe a doxology. Let the birds sing forth a new hymn.

Even the insects—let them hum.

Let the rocks break forth in song and the boulders shout.

Let the flowers radiate their beauty. Let the wind sigh through the valley. Let all heaven and earth rejoice.

He is Risen! Let the mountains echo it—HE IS RISEN!

And us, the crown of His creation, let us fall down before Him—and praise His Holy Name!

The dry bones turned to dust will one day stand restored before His throne. And they, we, all will sing, “Worthy is the Lamb.”

I exalt You Oh God! Jesus Christ is risen!

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

2015

Thoughts
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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.*

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CHRISTIAN DECORUM IN A WICKED WORLD

There are some things which appear on the Net that make me very skeptical, among them the latest news report that in rural parts of China strippers are being hired to dance and disrobe at funerals in order to boost attendance. This is an outlandish revelation, one that makes me wonder if it is real. If so, then the world has taken yet another turn toward the Flesh, toward evil.

I wonder if it is age that makes a Christian think the world is increasingly carnal and godless? When younger we don't see the filth and grime morally which permeates politics, business, relationships, and sadly, too much the church as well. As we mature in faith we have our eyes opened to the wretched struggle with sin that all of us undergo. We also see the inventive ways the World keeps lust, greed and avarice fresh.

But, at a funeral? I hope there's a retraction of the story coming, but I fear perhaps not. I get the distinct feeling that the world is teetering on the types of sin characterized in the Bible just prior to God's great Judgments, such as the Flood and punishment of Israel for it's iniquities. I have often said that the simple increase of humans on the Earth ensures the rise of evil; the world does not get more "righteous" as more sinners are added.

Despite the prevalence of moral decay, we Christians hold forth as best we can in godliness in our lives, and we hold out the promise of forgiveness to the sinner by Christ. There are still people being saved daily, in cultures all over the world! The Word of God is convicting and converting people to the Lord, Jesus. But, there will always be the two kinds of gatherings, those of the world, in which things such as funerals and strippers might mix, and those of the Christians, where the Spirit of God and righteousness mix.

IT'S YOU

Moses said please send someone else to Pharaoh. Jonah just ran the other direction. Why is it that God has to come after people to bear his name and spread his Word?

In Matthew 9 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (v.38)." Did you ever stop to think that it does not mean merely missionaries? It means *you*. Laborers in Jesus day gathered in public places waiting to be hired as field workers. Jesus is saying, in effect, "Have an attitude that puts you in a position to be "hired" by God for the Gospel, to be working as an evangelist!"

Jesus saw the people who were wandering aimlessly in life and he acted. Do we feel the same compassion? Do we pray that Jesus puts *us* in a position to do work for Him?

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder