

# THOUGHTS

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

## SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

### PRAISE GOD!

Japan: Our parish has been praying for over two years about getting into Japan. Japan is the most difficult country to reach with the Gospel. No religious radio programs have been allowed. Now, all of a sudden (an answer to prayer!) they have allowed one religious program—The Word Today! That is a miracle! Praise God! The cost will be approximately \$50,000 a year. Pray earnestly that many will be saved!

### SPECIAL OFFERING

This year was our 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May! Our Shepherd members gave \$70,700 as a special offering. The radio audience (our mailing list) sent in \$5,750. Praise God! After a slow start to the year we came booming back in May!

### MY HEALTH

I am now on my final month of chemo treatment for my cancer. In three weeks this series will be over and we hope it will go into remission. Your prayers are eagerly desired. Thank you for praying for me and for the wonderful cards!

### RETIREMENT

After 49 years here at Our Shepherd, Sylvia and I are retiring this year. My farewell sermon will be on September 13. Our final day at Our Shepherd will be September 30.

Please ask God to help Sylvia and me as we make decisions on moving to Florida, selling the house, leaving friends, managing finances, etc.

### THE WORD TODAY

The Word Today is the radio ministry of many former members of Our Shepherd, Greendale, and it is the strong outreach of the present members of Our Shepherd. Of course it will remain here under the very great direction of Pastor Doug.

Will I be speaking on some programs, etc? We are presently trying to figure out the details. We will let you know...

### RETURN

*...While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Luke 24:51*

God keeps His Word. He always has and he always will.

Jesus promised He would rise from the dead. He did. Jesus said He would return again. He will.

In the meantime, we are to be busy seeking the lost for Him. Though Jesus has bodily gone to heaven, He has not left us. He promised to be with us. Just as always, He keeps that promise. Plus, He sent the Holy Spirit for our comfort, strength and guidance.

When will He return? Soon, I hope. As we pray the prayer he taught us, we daily invite Him to come soon.

Even so, Lord, come quickly!

*I look forward to Your return, Lord.*

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.*

June

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## THRESHOLDS

The man stoops to accept his burden. He extends his arms and picks up his wife, carrying her across the threshold of the home they will occupy. Doesn't that sound like something archaic, so antiquated that it would be in a movie from generations ago? What would the future hold for this couple? They would not know, but they would go into the future together, the man supporting the wife the way the Scriptures describe, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... (Ephesians 5:25)." Is your marriage like this?

### A DANGEROUS THRESHOLD

Our culture is on the verge of something horrible. If the Supreme Court rules to allow Homosexual Marriage to be equal to heterosexual marriage, then our country will move definitively into the realm of godless societies. For decades the secularization of the public through teaching of Darwinian Evolutionary Theory in schools, with no fundamental criticisms of the theory, has produced a bumper crop of Humanists, spiritually dead people – the rise of the "None's", 20% of whom now indicate no spiritual affiliation on surveys. We are seeing the natural result of a culture fed a damaging philosophy under the guise of science.

Someday, perhaps after a long struggle against the faulty science and social outcomes of Darwinism, America will wake up and promote a *genetic cure for homosexuality*. If indeed there is a genetic link, it should be addressed by looking for a fix. Like alcoholism or other genetically unfavorable mutations, homosexuality should be cured, not celebrated and promoted as normal. I fear crossing that threshold as a society, though beneficial for all, will be a long way off.

### A DIFFERENT THRESHOLD

The Word Today is going to enter Japan! Soon the Gospel will begin flooding Japan as our program will be aired, reaching perhaps millions of people with the life-saving Good News of Christ. As the people of Japan recover from the devastating tsunami of 2011, we will be sharing with them the hope that comes from knowing Jesus as Savior. Please pray for the success of the programming, that we find a suitable translator and speaker for the program, and that the people of Japan are prepared to receive the Gospel!

### THE GOSPEL IS NOT CHAINED

Paul in Philippians 1:12-14 used his own example of being jailed for preaching Christ to reinforce the fact that the Gospel of Jesus cannot be contained, "... has served to advance the Gospel (v.12)." Elsewhere he states, "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's Word is not chained (2 Timothy 2:8-9)." Indeed, not even fetters stop the Word of God. Believers around the world in prison, under persecution continue to proclaim the news of Christ! No demonic or human oppression can stop it!

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder