

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO THINKS YOU'RE A HERETIC

The other day I wore a witness T-shirt to the health club which read on the front, "Real Men Love Jesus," and on the back asked the question, "What kind of man are you?" I find it enjoyable to present a "spiritual strength" advertisement among so many seemingly fit men.

There are other clergy at the club, and I wandered over to a fellow Lutheran minister, pointed at the shirt and said, "I'm trying to make my witness obvious!" He wasted no time in trying to correct me, "That's not witnessing! That's Law, not Gospel!" He then spent the better part of five minutes excoriating me for my poor form in not using the Gospel to witness. I simply stood and listened, but inside I was angry.

Why was I angry? I had been alluding to the "wider" sense of the term evangelism when referring to the shirt. It's quite obvious that the shirt doesn't say, "Jesus forgives you..." or similar. That would be the narrow sense of the term Gospel, or evangelism. However, we also teach that without the Law, knowledge of our sin, the Gospel is not appreciated. When we hear on a Sunday morning the Gospel lesson where John the Baptist is rebuking those who came out to the desert region to hear him preach, and the text reads, "And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them (Luke 3:18)," that is the wider sense of the Gospel.

So, we had a preacher attempting to disdain a preacher for evangelizing. Beautiful! Can Satan be any happier? When even the leaders are nit-picking and grouching against each other over simply letting one's light shine, we have problems! Beware of anyone who would squelch your joy for Christ!

I heard of another example this past week; a particular family whose sons have a religious rift. Now, perhaps if you were a Muslim and your brother became a Christian you would have a *rift*. However, if you were a member of a very conservative denomination, and your brother became a member of an even more fervent, nearly as zealously conservative offshoot of the same denomination, would this be a rift? Hardly. Yet, the more zealously stiff doctrinal brother and his wife will *not even pray with the rest of his family*. Pharisees are alive and well in 2016! Imagine being a person dedicated spiritually to the grace of God in Christ, and being very, very similar in nearly all respects religiously to one's sibling, and them not wishing to pray with you, as though you have a spiritual contagion.

These kinds of things must make God angry. Unity is supposed to define Christian relations, not carping and sectarianism. It's no wonder the joy of Christ is so absent in North America when religious people can't even share the simplest of facets of faith. Once again, I advise, *avoid such people!*



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THE EXPERTS ARE WRONG

A recent article in Time Magazine summarized how erroneous early dietary information was in regards to heart health. In the past 50 years many early seemingly obvious facts have been revised. Some of the findings include giving up the attempt to define a higher limit of LDL Cholesterol. Saturated fats now seem not as bad as once thought, while polyunsaturated fats, which were created to supposedly solve the "fat problem," are actually worse than the fat it was to replace! Once it was thought that lower blood pressure was a problem; now we know that what was considered acceptable is still too high. No longer should someone with a healthy heart take an aspirin; statistically there was no difference in incident of heart attack between those who did and did not take aspirin. Cutting calories will never cut it. Simply burning more of them than being consumed is now considered wrong. One needs to consider the "quality" or kind of calories if one wishes to lose weight. Finally, Statin drugs, which were supposedly the magic bullet against high cholesterol, are not as tolerable or effective as once thought.

Not so surprisingly, one of the oft repeated conclusions in the article is that not smoking, regular exercise and reducing body fat are the predominant ways to protect one's heart.

Anyone who thinks that "Science" knows Truth with a capital "T" is practicing *idolatry*. Especially Evolutionists give way too much credence to man's imperfect knowledge of reality. Evolution declares without clear evidence that spontaneous generation of life occurred via the Big Bang, that Survival of the Fittest (Natural Selection) morphs creatures into different creatures, that life started out "simple" and grew accidentally to become more complex, and that humanity is evolving upward toward a new species.

It's not that difficult to see that these have been, are now, and will continue to be falsified scientifically. However, when the knowledge in vogue is heralded as salvation for humans individually or collectively, you can be assured that salvation is tenuous. At least the field of cardiac science is admitting their errors. Evolutionists, because their presuppositions amount to a *faith proposition*, are not expected to acquiesce so easily. If they admit their "findings" are wrong, they undercut their enterprise, philosophically and fiscally.

As research and application continues, despite resistance the Truth will be found. It is to your benefit, however, to take any proclamations of major "discoveries" with a giant grain of salt. As usual, the common sense the good Lord gave you, such as eating lots of fruit and veggies is beneficial, and that design is obviously "built into" nature, leads to sound conclusions.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder