

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

A
P
R
I
L

2016

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129

THE LIGHT OF CONTEMPLATION

Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish priest and mystic who lived in the 16th century said, “The Devil cannot take from the soul the light of faith; he, however, removes the light of consideration, so that the soul may not reflect on what it believes.” How true! We are “... through faith shielded by God’s power until the coming salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time (see I Peter 1:3-5).” As sheep of the Good Shepherd, Christ, we take comfort from his declaration that no one can take us out of his hand (see John 10:22-42).

However, Satan does attempt to confuse and distract us. Prior to his return to the region of Judea, where angry people wished to harm Jesus, he commented that there are 12 hours of daylight in which to walk, and the man who walks during the day will not stumble, for he sees where he is going (John 11:9-10). Jesus is referring to spiritual contemplation, the same light of insight that Ignatius spoke of. It is found through prayerful and consideration of God’s principles as applied to life. Those who rush headlong into things without prayer and meditation on the will of the Father are like a man trying to run through a forest at night in the dark; it can be a painful experience!

RULES FOR REINCARNATION

China is seeing an abundance of people claiming to be the reincarnated Buddha! In order to keep some control of this – as is the policy of this secular Humanist, Communistic country – the government is putting in place rules in regards to validating such reincarnations! This brings up an interesting thought; just how are the living supposed to validate supposed reincarnations. Conversely, the resurrection of Jesus was testified to by eye witnesses. The biggest problem with reincarnation is its lack of evidence! Further, the Bible is clear that man dies once, then faces judgment before God (Hebrews 9:27-28).

LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES OF LIBERAL THEOLOGY IN ROMAN CHURCH

The Second Vatican Council of the Roman church took place from 1962-1965. I have previously discussed at my congregation some of the negative consequences of doctrines developed there. I noted in the Catechism published following the council that Muslims and other faiths were subsumed under the umbrella of the Roman church if they acknowledged the person of God the Father (as we know Him). That is heretical and does immeasurable damage to the Triune Christian faith.

It also saps the impetus to evangelize. I railed at such foolishness at the time, and now, about 20 years later a former Pope, Benedict XVI, has expressed the same concern.



April

2

0

1

6

In an article, "Pope Emeritus Benedict Warns of 'deep crisis' facing the Roman church, as he is concerned about that very same "universalist" perspective I denounced years ago. He laments of the attitude being shown among Roman believers, "Why should you try to convince people to accept the Christian faith when they can be saved even without it?" Of course, people cannot be saved without the Christian faith, but the Roman church is moving away from the Biblical perspective toward the populist perspective. He continues, "But if faith and salvation are not any more interdependent, even faith becomes less motivating." Our Roman sisters and brothers should have known the outcome of liberalizing the faith decades ago.

PSYCHOPATHS

Sociopaths, otherwise known as Psychopaths, are people who purportedly have no conscience. The Word tells us that all humans are born with "the law written on the heart" (see Romans 2:1-16). Mentally normal people have thoughts of accusation when they do wrong. It seems psychopathic people do not; they typically look at life as a game to be won by taking advantage of others. Paul the apostle warned young pastor Timothy about men who were, "...hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron (see 1 Timothy 4:1-5)." It is estimated that 4% of the population are sociopaths, and thankfully very few are violent or physically dangerous.

It is likely you have encountered a psychopath, and perhaps were unaware. It is good to know some signs that one might be dealing with a sociopath (my reference is this article "5 Things Real Life Psychopaths Do" by Amy Morin):

1. They are extremely charming. They may appear delightful, good at small talk, have a quick wit, tell interesting stories and seem generally "up".
2. They do not experience remorse. They do not accept responsibility for hurting others, but blame others and deny responsibility, such as saying, "They deserved..." They do not act with genuine remorse.
3. They are really arrogant. They have an inflated sense of importance, and they think the rules don't apply to them. They think extremely highly of themselves and their potential. They feel they deserve the top honors and perks.
4. They take huge risks. They often disregard safety concerns, even when it involves others. They often lie, cheat and steal to get ahead. Their behavior can be especially toxic. They usually organize their misconduct, and because they are intelligent they are good con artists.
5. They are master manipulators. They don't feel genuine emotions toward others, but may mimic it to gain advantage. They may use flattery to get others to do what they wish. Or, they may use guilt trips and gain sympathy to get what they want.

I once heard that if someone lies to you three times (I suggest proven, not suspected), that you should have nothing to do with them. That's not always possible, but it is wise to be aware such that we are not emotionally victimized.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder