

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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"OH, MY HEART"

My grandmother on Pastor Paul's side of the family was Hilda, who had a saying when she was surprised, "Oh, my heart!" She was known so well for this that in her small town of DeWitt, Iowa she began to be called Oh, My Heart! Cute!

I must be her descendant, as I know am saying, "Oh, my heart?" Surprise! I have a heart condition! It sure was a surprise to me! I had a repeat of my heart flutter from a year ago, this time coupled with A-fib. I spent two days in the hospital going on a new drug, Tikosyn, which helps regulate my rhythm. Praise the Lord for awesome drugs to keep us ticking (Sorry, couldn't help the pun; I get that from my mother, Sylvia)! I just saw my primary care doctor today and he says I am the exception, with excellent health but also this condition. It looks good for me long term, they suspect. The Lord is good. I appreciate your prayers for my welfare, but mostly I covet them for the growth and acceptance of the Gospel through The Word Today worldwide.

TEMPTATIONS AND TESTING GOD

Everyone is tempted to sin, many times in a given situation or momentary impulse to do evil. Such sins come from the weakness of the flesh. However, there is a form of sin which is willful, similar to "premeditated" murder, wherein the individual plans on disobeying God. This form of sin receives special condemnation in the Bible.

One instance of where such sins are discussed is in I Corinthians 10:1-13, where four major premeditated sins of Israel against the Lord are discussed, and how displeased God was with Israel. They are seen as a negative example for us, that we do not, practice idolatry, sexual immorality, nor test the Lord or grumble (to the point of rebellion; see vv.6-10). Some of the people simply overrode the Lord's will, and defiantly disobeyed.

I warn in my teaching that we dare not, "dance over the line," that is, we dare not intentionally defy the Lord's decrees. To do so is to leave his good Grace and place ourselves in jeopardy. The Pulse nightclub which was targeted in Orlando was a place well beyond the other side of the line, a place not for godliness, but for worldliness. When a person intentionally plays beyond the boundaries of God's will, they should not expect God's protection, nor favor for their activities. Keep in mind that we see clearly in the Bible the template for judgment; it can come either directly from God, or from other wicked sources! We also know that the World will continue to hate on each other and follow one perversity with another.

*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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One of my congregation members said of the Orlando shooting, "How many people do you think intended to get up the next morning for church?" The point is simple; one's actions underscore their beliefs. The topic does not have to be LBGT, but *any deliberate violation of God's will with a haughty spirit*. The warning from the Bible, and this particular example from I Corinthians 10 is clear; play games by participating in worldliness and you are playing roulette with your salvation.

PROMOTING THE WORD TODAY WEBSITE

Our primary means of contact in North America is thewordtoday.org, so remind your church and social friends to use their phone or computer to stream or download the program there. When they visit the site, have them note the global reach of the program, as evidenced by the map showing the countries we air the radio program. Radio is still the best way to reach many in the world today, so we have almost all our radio broadcast conducted in those regions where people without the Gospel live.

FIXATION WITH WEATHER

We are constantly bombarded with weather reports! If it's not the major atmospheric disturbances which will get us, it will be the exhausting heat! I don't recall seeing any discussion of weather in the Bible not associated with either glorifying God for his magnificent creation, or praising God for his unsurpassed power.

The Bible discusses the storm clouds, the deep waters, the sun scorching by day (remember, it is a desert climate in Israel), and the moon shining by night. The emphasis is always on the Lord who controls nature. Ancient pagan religions attributed the movements of the stars or the rain to multiple deities. The Bible asserts that the Lord is sovereign over all and controls the elements.

Recently it has been quite hot in Wisconsin; I believe we had seen several years since the daytime temperature was above 90 degrees for three days in a row. The "heat index" rose to 116 degrees F one day. We tend to get worked up over the weather, watching for the next potential big "event". Aside from the storm which shipwrecked Paul and his traveling companions (see Acts chapter 27), or the famine in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30), there is not an emphasis on weather.

This despite the fact that the ancients lived under oppressive summer heat, and were subject to the waves on the Sea of Galilee. Much of what is news today can distract from relationships, and *being at peace*. Whatever the weather we should be free from anxiety, knowing that our heavenly Father oversees our affairs. People are getting uptight about something they can do very little about, controlling the elements. We should take the day the Lord has given us and rejoice in it!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD