

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

N
O
V
E
M
B
E
R

2016

THE DANGER OF WEALTH

There is a hurricane slamming into Haiti as I write this, with tens of thousands of people scurrying to escape the worst of the ocean's wrath. I recall being in Haiti in 2011 removing rubble from the 2010 earthquake so that a maternity clinic for women could be opened, to be run by a Christian organization. Thus, my words to follow must be seen in the larger context of the opulence we enjoy as persons who live in North America.

The average American has less than \$1,000 saved. According to a survey by GOBankingRates 69% of Americans have almost no savings, under \$1K. New York based CFP Michael Hardy was quoted, "It doesn't seem to matter if they are making \$30,000 per year or \$300,000 – people don't seem to know how to spend less than they make." I guess capitalism has been a success, at least from the business side. Almost half of Millennials (46%) feel pressure to spend money after seeing posts on social media. Keeping up with the Joneses hasn't gone away, it's gone online. Amazon has allowed people to be as gluttonous consumers as they are diners. It has been utter disaster to family and society.

How far do you think that \$1K will go when it is time for all those people to switch to their anticipated retirement? Kim Kardashian had flashed her \$5M ring on social media, then was robbed of it and other jewelry totaling about \$10M. Is it any wonder? One has to consider our culture *hostile to faith and common sense; it will drain your soul and accounts if you let it.*

SCIENCE AS AN IDOL

The average person seems oblivious to one of the most virulent false beliefs of today, the belief in "Science". Notice the capitalization of the word science, that is, science as a concept or system of belief. Many citizens are fixated upon the power of science to describe our universe, and many scientists are fixated upon the power of popularity and grant money if they popularize the power of science. Scientists today can hold celebrity status, a kind of geek superstardom.

One of the biggest mistakes a person can make in life is to put their faith in Science versus God. *Science is conducted by sinful, fallible humans and as such is inherently unworthy of our belief as an absolute source of truth.* Yet, many do just that! Incredibly, they choose to believe in a human activity which is shown to be wrong consistently. A person gets into deep trouble when they accept uncritically such propositions as "Dark Matter," or the "Inflation Theory", both *soft science*, that is, not demonstrable but part of theory of the universe.

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129



November

2

Why is that such a problem? Current scientific establishment promotes a Humanistic, Materialistic paradigm, one which leaves no room for God! Though the evidence of design abounds on Earth, in our solar system and the entire universe, "Science" promotes atheism. There is a significant percentage of scientists who hold to Intelligent Deisgn, but their voices are drowned out by the atheists and media.

0

Why should we not put our ultimate trust in Science? Just this week researchers found out that the spin of galaxies can be determined by the amount of dust they contain; there is no need to posit Dark Matter. Recently new charting of the universe detected ten times as many galaxies as formerly thought to exist. Evolutionary theory and the Big Bang rest upon older, constantly replaced data, much of which *contradicts formerly held "truths"*! Trusting in "Science" which proclaims a Materialistic universe as ultimate truth is like climbing an ice mountain with bare feet, you keep sliding backwards with every step forward.

I am always impressed how the principles in the Word of God hold up under scientific scrutiny. When one treats the Bible properly, as a combination of poetic, prophetic, apocalyptic, and historic literature it dovetails nicely with science. It is not necessary at all to cave in to the Evolutionists who insist that there are two "Magisteria", or realms, the scientific and the religious. Of course the scientific establishment doesn't like being shown wrong and constantly adjusts theories in an effort to maintain the appearance of the invincibility of Science! The wise person will see that it is loaded with human interests, big egos, money grubbing and outright falsified data in an effort to support an ungodly paradigm.

1

BUILDING OTHERS UP

I used to be impressed by people who were quick witted, who could respond fast in a debate, or could defend themselves forcefully. I wanted to be like them. Not so much anymore; as I get older my perspective is changing and I am admiring more so those who are measured in their responses, who pause to consider before answering, or who are slow to get riled up. James 1:19 says, "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry..." Good advice!

I read the advice in Ephesians 4:25-32 as emphasizing that we must be truthful with each other, not allow anger to cloud our discussions, and only speak what is helpful for building each other up. That is certainly a challenge when all around us we see and hear examples of the forceful, quick responses of people, not the least of which is evidenced in the presidential race.

6

We are told not to "grieve the Holy Spirit (v.30)," which seems to clarify that if we speak out of a sense of self-importance or without consideration of the other we are assaulting the very body of Christ of which we claim membership. That's counter-productive! How much better if we value being a good listener over being a good speaker in order to ensure everyone hears what we have to say. We all have much to learn and much maturing ahead of us, but what a great goal for us as believers!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder