

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY
www.thewordtoday.org

N
O
V
E
M
B
E
R

2017

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129

In a recent news item Bob Iger, CEO of the Walt Disney Company, expressed outrage over gun violence. My first thought was, "And who is expressing outrage over Disney's pumping LGBT into the minds of our children? Where is the outrage that would have Christians by the millions boycotting anything related to Disney?"

FAT CHURCH

My wife, Connie and I have been "attending" Weight Watchers, which I call fat church. I am struck by the similarities between the two organizations. There are group meetings, catch phrases designed to instill wisdom and motivation, as well as a motivational speech by a leader. I find that the impulses that effect would be worshipers rattle around in my mind, such as, "I didn't do too well this week, I feel guilty," or "I'm tired, maybe I'll skip it."

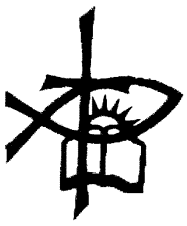
Ah, yes, I am not the world's best Weight Watcher member, because I have no impulse to "track" my points related to the food I eat. I attend, weigh in, and that's pretty much it. In this regard I am like so many "attendance only" Christians who don't bother with "tracking" by reading the Word during the week. I want a quick fix with less work. Sounds like a lot of people who want a spiritual quick fix by only attending church occasionally! Neither one achieves terrific results.

MURDER IN THE BACK YARD

Well, not quite our back yard, but about 1 mile away. Our local resident, a 76-year-old man, was confronted by two men who forced their way into his home, tied him up and strangled him. They made off with \$160. They were apprehended, and face sentences from 45-90 years.

I have had more than one person question whether the arrival a few years ago of a Walmart nearby has contributed to the increase in crimes, especially walk in burglaries, and now murder. There is also an increase of people simply blowing through stop lights and signs, killing unsuspecting drivers in collisions. Finally, I have also been seeing more instances of suicide attempts in which others are used as a mechanism in the attempted suicide. One involved a girl who texted her boyfriend, whom she had just broken up with, that she was going to drive her car into oncoming traffic. She did, and killed a young mother pregnant with a four-month old baby in the womb, as well as the ten-year-old son. In another incident a 12-year-old jumped off a bridge, landing on a car driven by a 22-year-old woman. The impact killed the young woman, and her boyfriend in the passenger seat had to control the car to bring it to rest. In both cases the suicide attempts *failed*, killing others for no good reason.

The Christian is to be ready to die any day. That does not make us morbid at all! It makes us joyful to know that, "... neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39)."



*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

November

2

0

1

7

iGen

They are called the "iGeneration", the first to live fully immersed in a connected, mobile phone world. At ages as young as 10 they are getting smart phones. What are some of the outcomes of this environment? We gain some insights from the recently published book iGen by Jean Twenge about teens who are now roughly 12-20 years old;

- They are growing up slowly; 18-year-olds now act like 14-year-olds only six years prior
- They are drinking, driving, and having sex (thankfully!) less than previous generations
- They are with their parents a lot, more so than with friends

-They spend less time on homework, paid work, volunteering, and extracurricular activity. They also are getting about 1 hour less sleep per night

-They are living off of mom and dad's income more and longer

-They are avoiding alcohol and doing Marijuana because they think it's safer

-They are self-focused; they don't want to grow up and have to "adult", as though it is an activity they can avoid if they wish

-They spend an average of 2.25 hours daily on texting, 2 hours on the Internet, 1.5 hours daily on gaming, and .5 hours on video chat, totaling *6 hours daily of new media exposure!* (As opposed to old media like books, magazines)

-They are consumed with anxiety, and suicides among them has skyrocketed 60%

-They are spending less time in actual contact and more time in virtual contact

-They think college is not to push development through encountering different ideas, even uncomfortable ones, but to be a "safe place" where they can get enough training to get a good paying job.

-They say they want a better world, but are volunteering and giving to charity far less; they are "slactivists", pushing viral causes online, but doing not much to assist others

After decades of teaching people that they have no purpose (Darwinism), and pursuit of mammon, we have cultivated stunted people who are trying desperately NOT to grow up! Consider, this is the future core of our country.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD