

THOUGHTS

Newsletter for The Word Today

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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ISRAEL IN 2020!

Start saving and planning; I intend to take a group once again to Israel in the Fall of 2020! Let me know if you wish to be on an interest list! It is not a commitment to go, but you will be kept up to speed as the details emerge in several months' time. I already have about 10 people on the list, and we can accommodate 30+.

CHANGE TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

I hope that you will join our readers and listeners in saving your change and converting it into dollars to support The Word Today! One penny reaches one listener! We can make a huge difference by this seemingly small gesture! So far there has been more than \$4,000 collected!

"FROM LA"

That is what the license plate read on the later model Chevy Malibu in front of me that began to swerve into a lane occupied by another car. Both cars reacted and there was no crash. The Malibu swung in right behind the car it nearly hit. Moments later as the vehicles entered a right turn only zone, the driver of the Malibu swerved once again, crossing the solid white line and racing toward the stoplight ahead to beat it. The license read, "FROM LA". I thought that was appropriate.

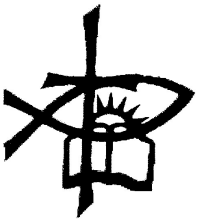
Our behaviors speak volumes about us, where we are from, what we value, our interests and foibles. Paul the Apostle agreed with a Cretan prophet who said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." Paul added, "This testimony is true." The behavior of a people group garnishes a reputation, good or bad. Note that Paul did not simply condemn them. He was instructing Titus to *preach to them and admonish them* so that under rebuke they might repent and be saved (see Titus 1:5-16).

It is clear that impressions of a culture of people is formed by the behaviors of that culture. However, as Paul shows, we must preach the Good News to all, and not dismiss or damn them simply because we disagree with their beliefs and behaviors. We have Christian standards to maintain and promote, and that is done with an attempt to love even our ideological and moral "enemies".

A SIGN FROM HEAVEN

The bumper sticker read, "GIANT METEOR 2020: Just End It Already!"

Do I have to say anything more?



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AMERICANS DROWNING IN DEBT

I suspect that most of our Partners of The Word Today are conservative, and do not enjoy being foolish with their money. One reason why TWT is loved is for its fiscal efficiency, not spending your contributions on administrative aspects, but all of them on the mission itself.

Looking at some personal and household debt statistics recently, I was reminded of the Scripture, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7)." Consider whether people can function normally, given these numbers:

Average student loan debt: \$32K (I have slightly rounded these numbers for simplicity)

Average Credit Card debt: \$6,800

Average Auto Loan Debt: \$31.5K (or \$523/mo.)

Average Savings: 58% have less than \$1,000

Average Retirement Savings: 42% have less than \$10,000

Average expended on non-essentials: \$5,300 (or \$440/mo.)

Among the statistics *nothing* was mentioned about charitable giving. We are living in an incredibly *greedy* culture!

A rough judgment of our culture might put half of the population serving the idol of money. Offerings to the god of money are given by circulating it, spending it – religiously. Contentment is far from the minds of many such people. Conversely, we have the "money zealots" who hoard it and are very uncharitable.

Thank you for not being like that! Thank you for practicing contentment such that you actually support the mission Christ sent us to accomplish!

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS COMPLETE!

I am pleased to announce that the anticipated Old Testament portion of Key Chapters of the Bible is now finished! I am sending for an initial order of 20 copies – just to make sure. I will have them read by some people at Our Shepherd and get feedback on potential furtive errors. Then, we are ready to open it up for orders, and I will give you all the pertinent information at that time.

I will be pleased to present the first copy to Pastor Paul! 😊

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder