

THOUGHTS

Newsletter for The Word Today

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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THE FALLIBILITY OF SCIENCE

Technology is the offspring of science. Yet, science has become dependent upon technology to reveal new facts. Advances in technology have shaped much of our worldview and culture. An example is the concept of the “heavens”, which to the ancients was as nebulous as the Milky Way viewed unaided by telescopes. With the advent of higher forms of technology, we now peer into vast regions of space, and our conception of the universe and our position in it has changed dramatically.

Technology has a characteristic of destroying previous scientific successes. Telegraph gives way to phones, which in turn gives way to cell phones, etc. Phrenology gives way to shock therapy, which gives way to MRI scans. It should be self-evident that it is a tenuous belief to put one’s hope in “science” as fallible humans conduct it, and especially since the outcome that is accepted today will most assuredly be revised as technology improves. It should be self-evident that if a person puts their faith in science, they are putting their faith in something that is absolutely subject to change.

We are living during a revolution taking place in science, where the prevailing theory of Neo-Darwinism (the idea that DNA/genes drives morphological/body type changes) is being falsified by molecular biology. Darwinism is being *discredited* as a theory, and this has only been made possible by advances in technology - lab experiments involving computers crunching huge swaths of data on genetics and molecular studies. *Hold on tight to your faith in God and Design; day by day the hard evidence is being amassed that this is the correct worldview.*

What of all the professors, schoolteachers, pundits, pastors who bailed on the Bible’s creation account – the ones who fudged it by saying they have faith, yet crapped on God by denying Creation? They are **WRONG**, and such people should be humiliated for their hubris. The pastors should be defrocked, and their congregations leave them in droves. Will that happen? No, because sadly, too many Christians are fickle and foolish. They were foolish enough to follow such pastors, and they will be foolish enough to stay with them.

POWER

In what may be the first event of its kind in 26 years of pastoring Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, we are having a “brown out” today. There was a terrific amount of wind this morning, as in the past when the snow or rain has played havoc with the power lines outside. I am reminded of how the Scriptures warn us not to attempt living on our own strength, or trying to combat Satan and temptation with our strength. We are to rely upon the Lord’s strength, and be filled with the Spirit of God! We do not have the power to overcome the sinful degradation within us, nor to defeat Satan on our own. Christians make much of the “Armor of God”, all the aspects of armament that we are to wear in combat with the evil one. Notice how the passage begins, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (Ephesians 6:10).” Huge amounts of time and energy are expended in human activities related to increasing personal, physical and material power, meanwhile neglecting seeking after strengthening spiritually. The wise person will seek the power of God for daily living.



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

MILLENNIALS' VALUE SYSTEM

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A new survey by The Wall Street Journal and NBC shows that significant changes since 1998 have occurred in regard to perspectives about hard work, marriage, children, faith and country. Millennials have rated lower patriotism (down 9 percentage points since 1998), religion (down 12 points), and having children (down 16 points). The only variable of the four that has remained constant is hard work.

The conclusion of many Millennials is that they consider it difficult to be a "proud American". That should not be a surprising outcome, as when a person disdains the commitment necessary to be a good spouse, foregoes children in a search for personal gratification (It costs \$100K+ to raise a child to age 16), and gives God the middle finger *they don't have a lot of basic character to be proud about!* Working hard? Big deal; even some criminals work hard at breaking the law. Working hard is attractive because of sinful greed, and because of the illusion that having more money will mean more happiness. The Christian, conversely, is not to simply work hard to get, but to *give, to be a good steward of God's good gifts*. Americans who *do good* have something about which to be proud. People can attempt to spread the blame and consider that the country is not what it used to be, but the mirror shows individual culpability!

Let me be very clear, I am not damning the Millennials. I know some very motivated, godly, great young citizens! They can feel proper pride of their contribution to our country and the world! They tend to be conservative, godly, not narcissistic, and hard workers! *We need a lot more of them!*

WILL POWER

I know the word is usually written "willpower", but I am discussing something a bit different, legal wills! My wife, Connie, and I just had an encouraging time meeting with a Christian attorney who is going to revise our wills. This godly man guided us through some legal potential thorny issues related to updating our documents. We greatly appreciate his capabilities and concern that we have the most accurate document that encompasses all our concerns.

I can't believe how "light", how joyful and happy I am leaving the lawyer's office! One would ordinarily think that working on such a document would induce the opposite feelings. As a believer who is secure in the Salvation that God offers through Christ, I am not so concerned about what happens to my body, that is, how I will die. I am more concerned about what will happen as consequence, namely, how the assets we have will be used for Kingdom work and for the welfare of our children. In the light of eternity, how I die is of little importance, but how I live is quite important. Part of the responsibility in being good stewards for the Lord for us involves having wills.

It had been 25 years since we did our first will. Shortly after that we were tested as Connie needed a life-saving surgery to remove a tumor from her spinal cord. We were SO thankful that we already had our wills in place prior to the health crisis. Now, conditions have changed and we want to alleviate ourselves of concerns that have built up relating to our wishes for our children. I had the manila folder sitting on the table in the kitchen, and I kept telling myself, "GET IT DONE!" Now, it is – and I feel great! For a monthly cost less than that of my family's cell phone, I set up a term life insurance policy years ago. For a one-time cost of about double the phone bill we have current wills. I strongly recommend you find the willpower to do what should be done, and you too will feel *relieved!*

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

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