

THOUGHTS

Newsletter for The Word Today

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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LAWMAKER PUNISHED, AND SHOPLIFERS UNPUNISHED

BBC News reported that an Indonesian man who helped draft strict anti-adultery laws, which included the punishment of public flogging, shall we say, supported the establishment of such a law. He was caught having sex in a car with a married woman. Purportedly the caning (28 times for men, 23 for women), while painful is not as horrible as the shame it generates.

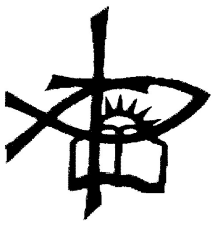
Meanwhile, a Fox News article about the consequences of California's Proposition 47 (which passed in 2014) has led to widespread looting and shoplifting, because shoplifting was reduced to a misdemeanor for incidents under \$950. Shoplifting rings spearheaded by Mexican gangs send persons with calculators in to steal up to the limit – repeatedly. Thieves know they can steal and likely not be punished. The idea behind the law was to allow police and the penal system to focus on violent crime. Consequently, what is now redefined as petty crime has exploded. Of the 20 largest cities in the U.S., San Francisco has the highest property crime rate.

The sick and twisted part of all this is that likely a majority of those above involved in various crimes in different cultures think of themselves as “basically good people”. They excuse their behavior as something less than the result of pure evil within them. No one wants to face the fact that we are shot full of sin, corrupted in our desires, and continuously break society's and/or God's laws.

Fires are ravaging the California countryside, but I think the worse inferno is that the laws of the land, and the morality of God that stands behind them, are being torched. There are terrible consequences to society of such lawlessness; decency, security and peace are lost. I am reminded of the Old Testament prophet Hosea, who used an agricultural analogy, “They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind (8:7).” Take some time to read the entire chapter and you will see that Israel, the northern kingdom after the split after King Solomon, was apostate. They defied God's law, and the Lord told them there would be consequences, as they would, “... reap the whirlwind.”

From neglect of worship of the Lord, to outright violation of his holy will, much less willful, repeated defiance of civil law, our culture is beginning to feel the cyclonic turning of horrid cultural change, the consequences of sowing the wind. It is not a tornado – yet. If there is not another Great Awakening, a true return to God, it will come, and it will be devastating beyond your comprehension.

Humans on our own power do not have the ability to subjugate the evil within us due to sin. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit bringing conversion, repentance, dying to sin and being reborn as a new person.



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

Secular attempts to create a new, nicer culture will fail. Caning in Indonesia will fail to bring about fidelity in marriage. Lowering penalties in California has failed to bring about a contented, law-abiding society. Until our government realizes that its divorce from the Word of God will endanger the entire Republic, things will continue to spin out of control.

A.S.D.D.

It stands for "Attention-Seeking Deficit Disorder", my description of a sociological disease of our times. While Attention Deficit Disorder sabotages the good intent of some, Attention-Seeking Deficit Disorder arises out of pride, the need to be the center of attention often. A.S.D.D. does not arise from electronics and social connections, but such can exacerbate it. From our President on down to the local teen in middle school, the need to be "on", or adored by others, warps the personality of many. Occasionally we all feel a deficit in terms of the attention we are getting. However, chronic narcissism leads to attention seeking, as though one is experiencing a deficit of adoration.

BUT, I WAS THERE!

A hospitalized member of our church mildly chastised me because she thought I had not come to visit. She was surprised to hear that I did! At my first visit she was sleeping, and knowing how tough it can be to get good sleep in the hospital, I wrote her a note. She never saw it, literally, because her eyesight is poor, and no one else knew of it. Now she knows, and in addition knows that she was not forgotten.

It is easy to feel forgotten when we are sick, injured, lonely. As the body of Christ, we need to keep our eyes and ears open to opportunities to minister to these people. They do not want to be forgotten!

TWT LISTENERS BEG TO HEAR MORE!

In the responses we receive monthly for TWT often there are requests for more programs. The Word Today is not a daily program, because by airing once a week, and in some cases twice a week, we can reach multiple languages.

The only thing limiting us is money. We have the programs, the translators, radio stations – everything is in place to expand. Praise God that 70 languages are aired and millions hear the Good News of Christ! They are spiritually thirsty, longing to hear about God. I hope you share the ministry of TWT with others and explain how gifts are used for mission purposes. *All* donations are used for the ministry, so the maximum number of people can be reached!

Thank you for your commitment to this ministry, and may God grant a strong finish to 2019! It costs about \$12K to reach an entire people group. A congregation or even a family can take the Gospel to an entire tribe or city! It is astounding efficiency in proclamation of the Gospel!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with **GOD'S WORD**
Visit us online at *thewordtoday.org*

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