

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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2020

Thoughts
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AMAZING OUTPOURING OF LOVE!

I invite you to view the memorial service for Pastor Paul, a celebration of his life *in Christ* (I encourage you to use that phrase regarding Christian funerals), at ourshepherdlutheran.org, where you will select "Remembering Pastor Paul Schroeder" and use the link to the service. In response to God's grace communicated through Pastor Paul, more than \$25K has been given to broadcast the Gospel through TWT!

UNHAPPY PEOPLE NEED NOT APPLY

Now look who is suffering discrimination – unhappy people! AJ's Hair Salon in England (The Brits are making it an *art* to take offense.) placed an ad for a part-time hairdresser with this proviso, "... only happy, friendly stylists need apply." *The ad was banned because it discriminated against unhappy people!* Are we to now believe that any adjective can be discriminatory? Secular Humanism is a worldview based on godlessness; it leads to not only immorality, but irrationality! Britain is ahead of us in that respect, but the States had better watch out. If we continue on this course such things as adjective discrimination will seem of little consequence.

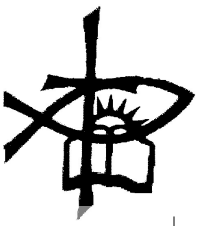
STABILIZERS

Ships have them. Planes have them. The ones on beginner bicycles are called training wheels. Families *need* them, but sometimes don't have them. Countries need them to counter destabilizing influences and people.

It dawned on me the other day that I am a Stabilizer. I may not be the world's best trail blazer, but I am gifted from God to bring balance to peoples' lives. Perhaps your grandmother or grandfather was a stabilizing influence in your family. Perhaps a parent or sibling helped you to "get on the right track," and to find some peace. It may have been a teacher, a policeman (or policewoman), a pastor or doctor. Maybe it was a stranger, but that story about the person you met who radically changed your life – it's almost always just a story. People with little contact don't really stabilize our lives. The self-help books and videos only get you so far. Usually, it's the tireless efforts of the stabilizing person in our life that sees us through.

Sin causes incessant instability among us. Disease, addiction, weakness, arrogance, need, loneliness, accidents – the list goes on and on, for there are myriad ways we suffer and become imbalanced, unhealthy spiritually, mentally and/or physically. Who is there to pick up the pieces? The Stabilizer does that job. It's not that the Stabilizer is inherently less sinful, but that their comportment is such that they naturally seek balance in life and productive solutions to problems. They inherently seek a better future, a healthier outcome, a closer walk with God. If a destabilizing influence occurs, they are planning how to make things right.

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



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Destabilizers are people who either can't or won't achieve balance. Often they succumb to temptations of drugs, violence, sexual promiscuity (including aberrant sexual lifestyles), or greed leading to covetousness and poor judgments. Many are suffering a mental health disorder that goes undiagnosed, or frustratingly, could be treated if not for the Destabilizer refusing, or failing to continue, treatment. Often, other health problems create a longer term destabilized environment.

We often do not want to accept our contribution to instability. We want to ignore or dismiss our sins. Some watch porn, and ruin their sexual health, often distorting and harming their relationships with intimacy with their spouse. Violence is habitually imbibed virtually or physically, with the arrogant perspective that it won't bring insensitivity or destroy lives. Poor diet and lack of exercise are pandemic, such that obesity is sadly the norm. The result is a host of ills, among them diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, insomnia, and depression. Life is not actually all that fun for the Destabilizer; they may have moments of euphoria, but it all comes crashing down too often. Who will save the Destabilizer? The Stabilizer. The doctor, nurse, soldier, policeman or police woman, teacher, pastor, counselor, grandparent, parent or sibling. The list could go on, as Stabilizers are to be found everywhere, even in prison, a hospital or on the battlefield.

Public perception of heroism is a strange math. A person who acts in the moment is deemed a hero. What led up to that moment of principle, self-sacrifice? That person was almost always a Stabilizer, someone who "does the right thing". They are often people of high principle, with a spiritual backbone. They assent to such principles as, "No greater love has no one than this, that he lays down his life for his fellow man (John 15:13)." We are, of course, to read in that Jesus' own intimation that He would do that very thing, pressing on toward the cross to bear our sins out of the greatest of love for us. Millions have, to one degree or another, adopted His principle, dedicating themselves to bring some degree of Christ's salvation to others through loving acts.

It won't win a Nobel prize. It won't be a ticker on a news segment. It won't even necessarily be acknowledged by friends or family. The Stabilizer is often the unsung hero, who bears the uncertainty, the cost, the frustration, the pain when they could say screw it, their problem. Culturally, they may not be pleasant, and at times are downright offensive with their crass judgments. But, when push comes to shove, they do the right thing. They pay the bill, clean up the mess, make sure the medical need is met, find a way to keep the relationship intact. They make sure that life does not blow up at that juncture. For that they are often disdained, neglected, out-shouted as Peacemakers. No issue; they know theirs is not an earthly reward, but a Heavenly one.

What would we do without the stabilizers?

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder