

# THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

## BETTER QUALITY AUDIO

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With replacement of the computer and sound board in the TWT studio, the program's recordings going forward will sound better. They will have a lower noise floor and better signal retrieval; translation, you will be able to catch more of my thought process by hearing the nuances of my voice better. Verbal communication is tougher due to not having visual cues, so improved quality will be appreciated! I wish to thank Terry and Dan at Our Shepherd for the tech work in the changeover!

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## "VIDEO NOT AVAILABLE"

Get used to the idea that information will be metered by tech companies. Freedom of speech is already dead, thanks to "progressives". It is deeply ironic that a group of people fancying themselves progressive, leading the way, as it were, are squelching free speech on campuses, online, and many public gathering places. Do you feel like things are looking a bit more like ancient Rome?

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When the report does not fit the agenda, you will see it removed, like the one accompanying a new article, "Report on Sex Trafficking in Canada reveals surprising demographic", in which it is revealed that 84 percent of women, from under 18 years old to 24, were Canadians, not internationals. These are vulnerable women who take up with a man, who turns out to be a "Romeo pimp". The video was removed from Yahoo's website. I would not be surprised if the article disappears, too. Never has it been more important in North America for conservative Christians to vocalize their beliefs. If you remain silent long enough, you will not have much freedom to speak of your convictions at all.

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## WHAT IS LOST FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

Typically, in North America preachers discuss faithfulness to Christ's Kingdom by what is given to support it, in prayer, deed and money. But, historically, that is not the only way to show faithfulness to Christ. Historically, Christians have shown their fierce devotion to the Lord by what they have lost. Some have lost family members, while others have lost jobs, friends, income, and in some cases their very lives (martyrdom; the ultimate witness, which is what the word means).

For hundreds of years Christianity has flourished in North America in a positive environment, but that environment culturally is turning hostile. When that happens, the freedoms and blessings that were expected can be ripped away. Christians are considered losers by the worldly, but in future decades Christians may be caused to lose in various ways, through unjust laws, religious discrimination, and hate crimes.

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*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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We are well reminded that over the course of a lifetime we should not expect an upward trajectory entirely, and that if we see losses due to the above causes, these losses are offerings as well as the monetary ones we give to the Lord from God's providence. Paul, the Apostle, even goes to the point of calling his death an offering (see Philippians 2:17-18). We properly see our commitment to God as requiring both aspects, what is freely given, and potentially offering up to God the things that might be taken away from us. Either way, we do so with confidence, as the Savior has assured we will not be wanting in Heaven!

### **"REPENT!"**

A guy just walked into the office (churches have strangers pop in for various reasons, for money, to set a preacher straight theologically, to donate an item - no, we do not have a need for your old piano - with a bag of campaign buttons that say one word in bold print, "REPENT!" It seems he is acting on his conscience to impact the culture. I may put one on a jacket to see the outcome. It is always a good idea to repent and humble ourselves before the Lord. The message is incomplete, however; Jesus always bundled the call to repent with grace, "...and believe the Good News!"

### **BE PREPARED TO WAIT A DECADE**

How quickly will a person repent of sin and/or foolishness? Often, not for a long time! It seems the struggle against the flesh is pernicious enough that it takes a horrifically long time for someone to finally be done with persistent sin. It can take a major consequence such as financial ruin, loss of a relationship, public humiliation, or failed health to force repentance. For those who are family and friends waiting, it may be a while. Rarely does a person both see the long-term consequences and have the wherewithal to fight and overcome such destructive behavior. I have observed final cessation of the sin not come until many years have passed, sometimes a decade or longer. It is a tragedy that our sinful flesh is so weak, and the Tempter so cunning, that it takes an inordinately long time to win victory over the flesh. Christ wishes deliverance for us now, but few have the means to receive it immediately. Pray fervently for those stuck in sin to be quick to repent and be freed from enslavement!

### **MEMORABLE ROAD INCIDENTS**

"Tank Man" (from Tiananmen Square), the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse, tickertape parades; President John Kennedy's assassination; we have images of important roadways. No roadway has been more important than the one Jesus traveled on a donkey into Jerusalem. He was hailed as a populist king but he had a greater purpose in mind. The Palm Sunday street parade gives way to Good Friday, and Easter! The crowds shouted, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:26). Indeed, blessed be our King Jesus!

Blessings,  
Douglas W. Schroeder

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