

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

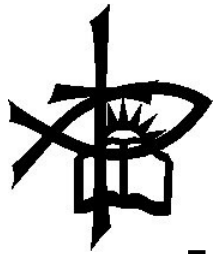
THE BLESSING OF BEING CAUGHT IN SIN

J We tend to slide. Our sinful nature does not rest, does not allow us to float along blithely in faith for very long before it once again tries to lure us into willful disobedience to God. Sin acts as a negative gravity pulling us down, that is, down and away from the heavenly things, the things that are of God, and toward things that are base, worldly, fleshly. Eventually, that slide ends up in a wreck of some sort, a major violation of the will of God.

U If we are blessed, we will be caught. The sinful self does not want to be caught; you can always tell when someone is willfully sinning, because they will attempt to hide it. Persons involved in sin are typically not read to repent; they keep on with the wickedness, justifying it and/or marginalizing its impact. The violator may be causing great harm to themselves but will most often continue despite. It is not until the truth is exposed, the lie and sin revealed, that we finally confront how disgustingly unholy we have been.

N I am reminded of David, who certainly was not a favorite of God for his flawless life. His life was far from flawless, marred by big time sins such as adultery and murder. One of the Lord's greatest blessings in love toward David was to have him caught in his sin. Had not the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David to crush his ego and force repentance, I suspect David may have even fallen away from faith! Does that sound impossible, no chance that someone who is so fervent for God would do such a thing? If you think that is impossible, then you do not have a healthy fear of the power of sin to mislead people, nor recognition of the fact that we are in a spiritual war with Satan and the demons. Unless repented, sin is a spiritual cancer that will destroy faith. It must be aggressively repented and fought.

E That is why it is a blessing to be caught and humbled when in open rebellion against the Lord. It is the mercy of God which has us confronted by other believers – ones who will not hypocritically condemn us (for they are sinners, too), but lovingly demand we repent and seek restoration with God and them. That can literally be a life saving activity! Humiliation from guilt is terribly painful, but not nearly as fatal as the wages of sin – death (see Romans 6:20-23)! As a loving Father, God does what is necessary to correct and discipline his children out of love. Those who hate God, who oppose Him, should expect nothing but retribution and damnation, unless they denounce their wickedness and repent. But Christians who are to represent Christ, but who at times are disobedient, should consider it a mercy of God that they are caught and forced to repent, thus halting their slide into utter depravity. We see in 2 Corinthians 7:10, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." As we take our turn in failing the Lord and having to repent profusely, we learn the importance of those words.



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

JUNE

2

0

2

1

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

This conversation reminds me of a joke. Due to inflation, the wages of sin is up to \$1.16/hour. It doesn't pay.

STRANGE NEW DEGENERATIVE BRAIN DISEASE IN CANADA

So often the world gets it wrong. It emphasizes worthless things, chases after things that actually harm the body and spirit, and freaks out about things that are of marginal threat. I believe the hyperbolic hysteria regarding Covid-19 is such an example. Obviously, if a disease kills even less than 1% of the population that contracts it, there will be many people dying. A tragedy? Yes. A reason to stop the world? No.

Here is one that strikes me as scarier, a new brain degenerative disease that is showing up in Canada. It seems tough to isolate and does not conform to any known disease yet. It seems like Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a scourge on the brain. Doctors are stymied at this time as to the cause. The fact that something this devastating can simply pop up and wreak havoc should concern people, especially if it can be transmitted.

Let's remember, something is going to kill you. We Christians should not be melting with fear over the fact that a disease or accident will compromise or kill us! We should be eminently realistic, and not pretend that our lives will go on and on without the touch of death visiting us and our family. Our faith is to prepare us for the inevitable, not blind us to it! Our joy resides in the promises of God to usher us beyond these terrible events and diseases! We have joy despite the problems of life!

WHEN WILL WE SEE WAR HERE?

The 10-day conflict between Israel and Hamas raises questions. Purportedly, Lebanon also fired some rockets into Israel. If in the future such things escalate, at what point would the U.S. enter to actively engage an enemy? Then, would the suicide bombings and terrorist activities explode on our own soil? Americans seem blithely unaware of such possibilities. I do not hear anyone talking about such things; perhaps they are afraid to acknowledge the possibility. Is it a direct sign of the End, as in Revelation's second coming of Christ? Not necessarily. The Christian is to be prepared for the Judgment Day anyways. But with social media such a scourge on relationships between ethnicities, I suspect tougher days are still to come. Prepare to be tested in your claim to love as God does! Pray earnestly for peace, for it does not come cheaply!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder