

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

HEY WORLD, LOOK AT ME!

M The young girl put her hand up to obscure her face as she marched ahead of the boy with her. He was singing, poorly and proudly while he recorded it for posterity. She was not impressed and did not wish to be in the video, much less encourage it. He was engrossed in his greatness, singing loudly and proudly what I took to be a particular version of a popular song.

A I couldn't help but laugh out loud. I normally don't laugh directly at people, and I'm sure you don't. In this culture, it can be dangerous! But we do laugh at people behind their backs, don't we? Don't lie and say you do not! It doesn't even need to be a laugh, but perhaps a quick chortle or derisive sniff. We judge people based on outward appearances and behaviors that strike us oddly. Sometimes the judgment is justified if their behavior is ungodly or unlawful, but other times it's a pompous attitude on our part.

R There are moments when people are so possessed of the notion that they are special, that they must primp or posture and make sure everyone gets a chance to see it. It's laughable!

TAKING OUT OUR SIN TRASH

C In preparation for the Ash Wednesday service, I worked on a message from Job 14:1-17 wherein Job, the faithful suffering servant of the Most High, suggests that God just end all his suffering, let him die, then recall him from the grave! As he concludes that thought, he likens his next life with the Lord to involve close monitoring by God, but not to root out his sin. Rather, God would draw close to befriend and shower His love upon Job.

H I like the image in verse 17, "My offenses will be sealed up in a bag; you will cover over my sin." I can imagine that the last act regarding our sinful flesh will be upon our death God putting our sins away from Him, much like we take out the trash! Job is saying that as God will remake him, his sins will be thrown away, bagged, and ditched! Isn't that a great way to consider the finality of our sin and the future sin-free existence through the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord, Jesus? I love it!

BURNING QUESTION

As I departed from the church office, I couldn't help but wonder if the man passing by on a motorcycle on February 21st at 5:42 pm in 34-degree weather was enjoying himself. There are times when we do things that seem bizarre, such as riding a motorcycle in winter weather. But, if what you plan to do is morally aligned with the will of God and productive, have at it!

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The Word
Today
Box 77
Greendale, WI
53129



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

A TERRIFYING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE GAMBLING EVERYTHING

People are betting their money, social credit, relationships, health, and mental health. They are also betting on there being no judgment.

They are betting big on things such as EVs, Climate control, cryptocurrencies, open relationships, and sexual fluidity.

The world has fallen in love with quick change and radical change, and they are gambling on the future. It will be disastrous beyond all measure.

FINANCIAL INVERSION

The headline read, "He has \$100K in credit card debt, but \$60K in bitcoin."

Well, that's stupid! I guess his offerings to God are zero. Some people are gifted at ruining themselves at a faster-than-average pace.

WHAT KIND OF FLOWER WOULD I BE?

Think back to when you were a child and engaged in conversations such as, "What if you were an animal? What kind of animal would you be," and other highly imaginative but marginally productive fantasies. I had a child-like moment conversation today with a woman at the post office. The bright, sunny February morning with balmy mid-30-degree weather melting the snow and ice from the storm the day before had people in a cheerful mood. I commented on the fair weather, suggesting playfully that it was flower planting time. The woman replied, "My daffodils are already coming out!" That made me pause, considering that we had recently experienced below-freezing weather, and some flowers were peeking out! I commented, "Now, that's a tough flower!"

Suddenly, my mind was filled with flowers of all sorts. As I strolled to my car I ambled through an imaginary garden of various flowers, contemplating their supposed durability against the harshness of snow. I recalled seeing tulips and other hearty flowers breaking through the ground in late Winter because they were planted on the south side of a house where the ground had received more warmth. The frilly flowers don't seem to do so well under such conditions. I considered that if I was instantly transformed into a flower, I might become a daffodil, not stunning, but tough. We don't normally think of flowers as being tough, especially when compared to weeds. But a flower that can poke through the ground in February is relatively tough! We Christians should exhibit a form of attractiveness and toughness, a practical beauty that displays the Word of God clearly even if the conditions are not optimal.

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder