

# THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER  
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY



## HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE BEING CONDEMNED TO HELL?

**J** Those are not my words, but the words of Jesus! Evidently, Jesus did not have much of a problem with consigning some people to Hell. Do not misunderstand; it was not that He desired that they end up in Hell. However, He would not let them be deluded that their hypocrisy and spiritual pride would prevent them from salvation. Jesus loved them so much that He forcefully described their spiritual condition in the hope that they would repent and be saved (See Matthew chapter 23).

**U** Do we love people enough to tell the unrepentant they are on the way to Hell? The Sunday morning Bible class I lead is studying through the Gospel of John. In chapter 6, Jesus begins to make statements that irritate many people, such as, "I am the bread of Heaven (or variants; John 6:33, 35, 41, 48, 50, 51, 53, 58)," When Jesus repeats something seven times in one conversation, it is important! We think it's a nifty analogy, but we miss the irritation involved for the listeners. The Jewish faith prohibited the consumption of blood, much less human flesh! Yet, Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:54)." Jesus pushed two buttons with one statement. He talks about the necessity of feasting on Him, then claims authority to raise people from the dead! With regularity, Jesus said things that upset, irritated, and infuriated people. Not just once or twice, but repeatedly. He had no interest in trying to be nice or inclusive. He forced people to make a choice about Him, and if someone rejected Him, so be it. He did not beg people to reconsider, even though he knew that it might mean eternal condemnation for them!

**N**

Many Christians have no clue how stern Jesus was in His effort to have people wake up to their sinfulness and repent of it. He knew it was a matter of salvation or damnation.

## COOL IDEA, BUT THE EXECUTION IS NOT SO HOT

**E** Let's go to Mars, where the temperature reaches -225F! That is the extreme low. The average is -85F or -65C. How does that make you feel about colonizing it? In comparison, -85F is at the limit, the coldest inhabited place on Earth. What a genius idea to splurge our resources to reach a place that can only reach a high of 70 degrees and can reach twice as low a temperature as Earth!

The only thing needed to promote a fantastical plan is ignoring reality. I'm sure that astronomers and engineers salivate at the intricate calculations, like puzzles to them, that would need to be figured out to overcome obstacles such as space travel and the health of occupants of a spaceship over a journey to Mars. Such things are conveniently not brought to the fore when visionary ideas are discussed. How many people would conclude that it is

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The Word  
Today  
Box 77  
Greendale, WI  
53129



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largely a waste of human resources to construct a ship (one that likely would have to be built in orbit to make it less gravity-defying) for a one-way mission to a planet devoid of ready resources?

That is why the promotion of the concept of an ecological apocalypse is valuable to them. If the Earth is rushing toward doomsday – even better if you can sell the idea (and I do mean sell, as in EV) that we are already in the first, irreversible stages of doomsday - then the most absurd scenarios can be made to sound more reasonable. Most people will not carefully consider the lunacy of such plans and the negative consequences of blindly following those who promote them. These people are trapped in Sci-Fi mode and sales mode, turning out putative disaster movie predictions for public consumption (emphasis on consumption) via liberal news outlets.

Someone might suggest that explorers like Christopher Columbus – is it ok to refer to him without someone getting bent out of shape? – or Earnest Shackleton were doing what is being proposed by those who want to set up a mission to Mars. Not remotely. In that case, the exploration was thoroughly grounded in an environment that provided Earth's ample natural resources and did not fight the laws of physics on a grand scale. On the other hand, a trip to Mars would require absurd amounts of money and time in a bid to hurdle known planet-sized barriers to reach a place devoid of ready resources!

Did I mention the average temperature on Mars is -81F, with a range of 68 to -220F? Lovely weather! Wow, would you look at the gravity on Mars! It is 38 percent of that of Earth. We know what happens to the bones of humans in low-gravity environments. The plan is to reside there permanently and watch our bones waste away unless we are in an anti-gravity man-made environment. That means humans would have to reside inside most of the time if only to counteract the low gravity of the planet! Doesn't it sound like fun? Common sense would dictate that we allocate resources to improve and sustain Earth, not waste phenomenal amounts of them in a bid to reach and colonize Mars!

If the world is facing an ecological crisis, does it make sense to play astronaut? We have a lot of cool technology and products that sprouted from the space program. I am not going to say I do not appreciate it or do not use it, for that would be hypocritical. However, does humanity have to blow a hole in our ship on the recommendation of transferring to a life raft like Kon-Tiki? No, we do not have to embark on such an excursion. Frankly, the Mars fantasy supports industry and sales. It makes mega-industrialists look smart and worth following, for instance when they want to sell you an EV. At least it seems cool and smart when no one is looking at the conditions on Mars. Talk about a disaster in the making! Two generations, this and the next, best prepare for travel to be hell on Earth, because if the EV world comes to pass, travel conditions will become debilitating for those who wish to even go to the other end of the country, much less overseas. Meanwhile, the billionaires will shoot off rockets, hang in zero-G for a while, and sell the idea of a home on Mars.

Blessings,  
Douglas W. Schroeder

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