

THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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Thoughts
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"CHURCH HOMELESS"

As I was discussing the congregation with a visitor she referred to her family as, "church homeless," people. Her family had moved, and in the process lost their comfortable congregation. The result was a wandering from church to church in search of a new faith home. The phrase struck me and prompts several thoughts.

-Church homelessness is an invisible crisis; millions are wandering about without any strong connection to the Body of Christ. This is *not good*. Faith cannot be indefinitely maintained apart from the Body of Christ any more than a cell can be indefinitely maintained apart from the body.

-It is frustrating to leave a spiritual center of growth and not find another exactly like the one you left. That is to be expected, however, because every church has its own character, usually strongly shaped by the Pastor or Priest. One needs to be very careful in regards to selection of a church home because, frankly, there are a lot of heterodox (doctrinally erring) churches. Consider, for example, how many churches have no problem spiritually with such things as elective abortion or gender identity.

-In one sense I want people who come to our church to feel "at home," and in another sense I do not. I want all people to feel welcomed, regardless of whether they are Christian, Muslim, Hindu, or a "seeker" of truth. However, I do not want people with these alternative spiritual dispositions to feel at home in the sense that whatever they wish the church to be can be accommodated. Christ has very clear expectations in terms of teaching and behavior that encompass the definition of the Church. Faithful Christians are distinctly different than the world and do not assimilate every philosophy and behavior.

-In the past I have been tempted to have a stern approach to people who can't seem to get plugged in to a church. It is a responsibility of a believer to seek and integrate into the community of faith. I am tempted to conclude it is laziness and or indifference, combined with a healthy dose of arrogance suggesting, "I don't need to just yet," that prevents commitment.



*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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Yet, the phrase, "church homeless" makes me consider this in a different light. It is frustrating to not find what you are looking for! It is tiring to attend cookie cutter churches where the preaching is lifelessly read from a manuscript. It is tough to warm up to a church that is not in the spirit of the worship you enjoy. So, I need more empathy toward the church homeless. I will be even more sensitive to their plight, and much more slow to judge, and even quicker to warmly welcome them!

STICK AROUND FOR THE BIG SHOW

I was interested in reading about the fact that Voyager 2, the space probe which has just now, six years after launching, passed beyond the Sun's radiation plume. It is now out there about 120 AU (Astronomical Unit; each AU is approximately the distance from Earth to the Sun, about 93 million miles!). It is heading toward the Oort Cloud, a suspected haze of comets that starts at a distance of 1,000 AU from the Sun and extends about 100,000 AU from the Sun. I lost interest when I learned that it will take *about 300 years for Voyager 2 to reach it and 30,000 years to fly past it. Is that all?*

In other space science tom-foolery, a video now appearing on YouTube has an audio recording of the sound of "wind" on Mars. There's only one problem. The pitch had to be adjusted upward *two octaves*, and the recording sped up *100x!* Why? Because the actual "sound" unable to be heard by human ears, is far too low in pitch, and is *completely boring*. It would be like the "wind" thrown off by a hydronic heater, so uneventful that a person would conclude properly there is essentially none.

This is terrific evidence that there is no life on Mars! Life takes wind, real wind—we casually refer to it and other elements as weather, a proof of a dynamic planet. The fact that there is no wind on Mars remotely resembling what we call wind, at least none detected so far, is a clue to how dead the planet is. A cascade of probabilities associated with this finding should result in a definitive conclusion that no life could exist on Mars. Will that be the news headline you see tomorrow, or for that matter in the next five years? Of course not, because the scientific establishment is sold over to Darwinism and *must desperately look for the origin of life somewhere in the material world as opposed to acknowledging that it takes a Designer to make life*. Damning data will be ignored, or even manipulated to put off the obvious conclusion.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder