

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

A
p
r
i
l

2020

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129

ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

Now, as expected, we are seeing popping up like weeds the religious teachers who are proclaiming that current events are being controlled by a small cadre of individuals, and that this is in direct fulfillment of prophecy of the End Times. Really, are we Christians lurching into the abyss of foolishness *again*? Haven't we learned enough from past missed-prognostications that attempts to call the political/social shots as though gleaned directly from the Word is a fool's game? Come what may, we are to keep our minds fixed on the goal to which Christ has called us (Philippians 3:12-14).

WHAT DID THEY EXPECT?

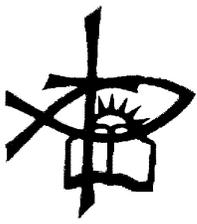
Reports are surfacing that many Americans are not complying with the orders to "social distance" and curtail activities that involve larger numbers of people. There is a "negative feedback loop" that occurs between citizens and government when policies are flaunted. The Government sees non-compliance, then cracks down. Persons who are familiar with the Bible see much evidence showing how difficult it is to get full compliance from a nation.

Surveys such as the latest Harris Poll show that while 74% of Americans are afraid of accidentally spreading the virus, 89% are still going to coffee shops, and 58% have not changed how they invite people over. Half have not altered their hygiene behavior.

This is evidence of the reason I suspect that Covid-19 will not be controlled and eliminated through attempting to "socially distance". Just wait until the knee jerk economic decisions come home to roost! *Trillions of dollars* expended to defeat a maximum 3% killer disease? I wonder how many will suffer, and perhaps die, due to the societal, dietary, mental health and physical fitness consequences of the shut-down? Humanity has successfully gotten rid of *one* disease, Polio. The odds are not good, especially given the incubation period of this virus, that we will be successful. I wonder if, once restrictions are relaxed, the disease will explode in the population again.

There is a strong possibility that my concerns are wrong, which would be due to a drug, or drug cocktail, being introduced that works effectively against the virus.

The Church has seen horrid days in the past, and will in the future. If we think the hard times to come due to economic convulsions will be tough, think of the wars, famines, plagues that decimated previous generations. This could get really bad very quickly if they keep this up. Does that kill the Christian's joy? No; it may sap our happiness, but it changes *nothing* in regard to our joy of salvation!



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

April

2

0

2

0

REPENTANCE

This discussion about the disconnect between desires and behavior is applicable to the person who feels the fallout from their sin and wishes to repent. Repentance is not only *intent*, but also *action*. The word "repent" in the Greek New Testament means to turn around. I liken it to making a U-Turn when driving; an obvious mistake has been made and one must go the opposite direction.

Especially with sins that cause much grief and pain, the contrition one feels is very strong. The *intent* to change is strong. Like a bee sting, however, the intensity of it fades, even daily. As a result, many lose their desire to actually change their actions! Before long, they are back doing the same wrong things as before! One must make a *decisive* change quickly, if it is hoped to break from habitual sin!

STREAMING CHURCH SERVICES

Some pretty radical changes are happening to churches! With the governor's order to not gather in numbers greater than ten, a scramble is on to utilize technology to stay connected. If your church does not have services online, I encourage you to join us. Our Shepherd Lutheran Church will have streaming services for Lent at 7:15pm on Wednesdays, and weekend services online Saturdays at 6pm, and Sundays at 10:30am. Links to those services will be found at the following locations:

Our Shepherd Lutheran's website: ourshepherdlutheran.org

Email contact: send your email to: bethb@ourshepherdlutheran.org

Facebook: Our Shepherd Greendale

Twitter: OurShepherdLuth

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Our God resides in the future! He is eternal, and thus our earthly, temporal problems do not restrict him. We are asked to trust in his omniscience and his benevolence toward us in Christ. At times this comes easy, while at other times we are sorely tempted to question his way.

Our "slowdown" is a perfect opportunity to get plugged back into the Word. Were you running amok with little time to pray and meditate on God's Word? Perhaps now you can establish a habit, get it engrained in your lifestyle, and keep it going once the pace picks up again.

Let us hear from you! Drop a note with your gift, or email! ☺

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder