

# THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

## SKATING ON THIN ICE

Those of us old enough to remember some of the witticisms and colloquialisms of our parents may recall a saying told to children when they were misbehaving “You’re skating on thin ice!” It was a vivid way of warning that the misbehavior if continued would lead to negative consequences.

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It was with mild surprise that I read a news article this morning “72-Year-Old Ice Skater Dies After He And Five Others Fell Through Thin Ice” (msn.com). The article reminded me of a YouTube video of people skating on thin ice on a river; the ice could be heard popping and cracking as the skaters glided over it. When we encounter such a brilliant display of self-defeating behavior our first reaction may be to mutter, “Idiot,” or a similar term of derision. Yes, it is quite stupid, isn’t it? Are such people dumb? No, not at all; I suggest they are phenomenally arrogant. Pride can overrun common sense and convince people of their invulnerability. The thought process is that the worst won’t happen to them, and if it does, they will find a way out of it. But, often they don’t, but rather become another example to the rest of us of arrogance bringing self-destruction.

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Christians are to exercise wisdom, a spiritual intelligence that is born of the knowledge of the Word of God and the conscience God has given us. The Spirit of God leads us into truth, which encompasses not only the Gospel but also sensibility. Christians who do not honor God by making themselves disciples (students, apprentices) of Christ, are typically thin on Godly wisdom. They often make mistakes such as following the patterns of secular people, mistakes that the wise would not make.

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There is a spectrum of risk, and frankly, at times I am a bit on the risky side. I can’t recall how many people give the look of disapproval when I tell them I ride a motorcycle. It’s a that’s not smart look, often followed by their stories of death and dismemberment. In the years that I ran for exercise, I had the pleasure of running through several major cities and rural places around the world. I know some people thought it was not sensible. But are you going to live or sit on your ass watching fake reality TV and stuffing your gullet so that you can have a coronary? I would rather die doing something I enjoy – but please, if my life has any meaning, don’t summarize with “He died doing what he loved”! You have a hollow life if that is the best that can be said of you.

There are enough people who are adrenaline junkies who push too far, who die, that the parables of doom will never cease. But, as Christians even when we intentionally pursue a risky activity, let it not be sin, something wicked that automatically puts us in jeopardy. Let’s have clean fun. That way, if we die, they won’t be able to say with a basis in truth that we did something stupid.



*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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### **RUSSIAN WORLD**

That phrase, roughly equivalent to Hitler's super-race, is occupying the mind of Vladimir Putin as he has ordered his army to destroy Ukraine. Analysts are unclear whether he wants to annex it or obliterate it. One thing is clear, this should not be surprising to Christian global citizens. Our Savior has warned us that there will be wars and rumors of wars, but we are not to be alarmed (Matthew 24:6).

Will we ever see a world where there is true peace? Not in this world. Humanity is incapable of genuine love for all others. Even Christians struggle to show love to their enemies, so why would we think that the ungodly are capable of showing restraint? Remember, as I have taught for decades, Darwinism is the predominant operating worldview in the mind of such persons – you know the phrase, survival of the fittest. There is not a shred of love in such thinking. Putin is simply acting according to his training and worldview.

Normally, the only way to stop such aggression is by force. The world is rapidly placing sanctions on Russia, and that may stir up the people to rebellion as they take their toll. In the Bible we see God literally, directly putting people to death, but usually, they are victims of their own wickedness. Many kings of the Old Testament were assassinated; it's all there in the books of I & II Kings.

The Bible is an accurate testament to the fact that humanity has never gotten along, not even the 12 tribes of Israel. We think we have discord in America today. It's not any worse than the wretched society of Israel and Judah. Read the book of Judges and you will have your eyes opened to how mournfully morally decrepit people who are supposed to be religious can be. Everyone wonders if the End is near based on the ambient level of evil in the world. Sadly, I think we have a ways to go yet before it gets that bad. But the Christian is always ready for the return of Christ and the Judgment.

### **BUCKET LIST**

There was a mediocre movie by that title wherein two old men decide they need to accomplish their bucket list. Skydiving is always on such a list. It's a popular way to dare death and have a good chance of coming out unscathed. I thought I would try it before turning 40, then 50, and now approaching 60. I held back because I was concerned about any trauma to the spine. I do not have enough space here to write about my experience, but while in Florida this past week I did it. I voluntarily hurled myself – well actually, I was pushed – out of an airplane at 13,000 feet and felt the thrill of freefall at 131 mph. Did I have the sensation that I was going to die? No, but analogies to faith did come to mind. More to come.

Blessings,  
Douglas W. Schroeder

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