

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY



CELEBRATING OUR PARENTS

A The demeanor and behavior of our parents dominate our lives for the better part of the initial two decades we are being raised. Many feel liberated when they escape the negative influence of a poor parent. Conversely, godly parents set a person's life on course to receive blessings from the Lord.

U
G The word precious comes to mind as I review the past several days during which our family celebrated my mother, Sylvia's 90th birthday! She is still mobile enough to cruise, so we did the 4-day loop between Port Canaveral, Nassau, Jamaica, Coco Cay (Royal Caribbean's private island), and back to Port Canaveral. Never have I seen such a perfectly smooth, tabletop ocean for four days! As the water was nearly as flat as a pond, she was able to move about the ship with ease. She used a rental scooter to explore the town of Nassau. The entire birthday week was touched by God's abundant grace. It was a precious, very precious time with Mom.

U Sylvia wishes to thank all those who remembered her by sending notes and cards for her celebration. The Schroeder and Ruland families thank you for showing your affection for Mom!

S Sylvia has a charm bracelet she has populated with meaningful charms. The miniature handheld mic reminds her of Paul and me, the speakers on TWT. The program itself is represented by a replica of a cassette tape because for years the program was distributed to radio stations for broadcast using that media. Dana is represented by a can of Dr. Pepper because she is crazy about that soft drink. Sylvia has several spiritual charms on her bracelet, her favorite being the phrase "Let Go and Let God." Regularly, we hear her encouraging that disposition when facing an obstacle. What a great reminder that we serve a mighty and loving God!

THE LORD PROVIDED

T When Abraham was about to slay his son, Isaac and the Lord provided a ram caught in a thicket as a proper sacrifice, he named the place, "The Lord will provide". The event spawned a saying; on the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided (see Genesis 22:1-19). Abraham's test was critical, for it showed his resolve to fully obey the Lord even when not understood. It also was a foreshadowing of the Father's sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

Like the mildly scolding passages such as Jesus' instruction about resisting worry (see 6:25-34), Abraham's test of faith has resulted in a guiding principle for the believer. If we have a need, we trust that God will provide for us. Sometimes, the provision is cute, and smaller, like the Nature Valley XL Protein Bar that was placed into my mailbox at church by an unknown person. I found it this morning when I returned from Sylvia's birthday celebration. I had not

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

gone to the store yet to buy the sleeves of rice cakes that I dutifully ingest to stave off hunger but not add unnecessary calories. My stomach was rumbling, a foreign feeling given the indulgence of the days prior. It was time to get back to self-discipline!

Was the health bar a one-off, momentary jettisoning of an extra food item that someone thought I could use, or perhaps a portent that I should do better with my diet? Either way, it was provided by God, and I appreciated it! Perhaps Jesus would say, "If the Father provides health bars for His children, will He not provide for all your needs?" Now that I have written this segment, I can reward myself by eating the protein bar!

UPPER LIMIT

The Lord has placed tight physical boundaries on our bodies and the environment. The limits that the human body can endure are well known. Researchers at the University of Roehampton in the UK found that the body has trouble regulating its temperature when the weather reaches 104 degrees, and the difficulty increases with high humidity. The body's metabolic rate controls the ability to adapt to the environment. All creatures have preferred temperatures at which their energy expenditure is optimized. None of this is surprising.

It is surprising that so many people give a pass to patently absurd ideas such as living on Mars, where the average temperature is far outside not only the comfort zone but the viability of human life! Truly, there has been some brainwashing done on the public that they don't even consider such facts that make colonization of Mars a non-starter, not to mention the dearth of water and other resources!

I predict that AI-generated information will suffocate human freedom. The push to regulate the Earth's weather will become a religion, an all-encompassing social-political effort that will snuff the individual's freedom as the government clamps down on energy waste and global temperatures. Be ready for a future where everything will be regulated in a bid to save planet Earth. We are pushing past the Earth's limits.

[While Earth Hits Record Temps, Scientists Find the Upper Heat Limit for the Body \(msn.com\)](#)

PUT AND PLAY (As distinguished from Pitch and Put)

While on this vacation, our sons and I tried a new activity called Put and Play. It's miniature golf on a miniature groomed grass course! The putter is used for driving the ball, the fairway, and putting! The courses have wild undulations and turns but no windmills or other artifacts. It's fun! I hope you get to try it sometime.

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder