

THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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WHY ISN'T GOD BLESSING YOU?

Maybe you don't deserve it! There is a good possibility that the Lord would be foolish to give you more money if you are not a good steward. A recent article headline read, "23% of Adults Got Three-Quarters of Financial Literacy Questions Wrong: Can You Get Them Right?" [23% of Adults Got Three-Quarters of Financial Literacy Questions Wrong: Can You Get Them Right? \(yahoo.com\)](https://www.yahoo.com/news/23-percent-adults-got-three-quarters-financial-literacy-questions-wrong-can-you-get-them-right-120000111.html)

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I got the three sample questions in the article correct and I would like to take the entire survey at some time. As someone who was taught fiscal basics and spiritual discipline by my parents, I would hope that every Christian would have a modicum of money smarts. However, it appears that many are woefully ill-prepared to handle the blessings of God well.

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God is likely blessing you more than you think, but you may not be handling it well. In my conversations with long-term Christians who at times complain of financial tightness, most do not budget. That is a problem for them and for the Church. How are you supposed to be a good steward of what God has given if you do not account for it? The answer is you aren't. You may not wish to hear that, but it is the truth. Would any business be happy to have a manager that takes no account of the inflow and outflow of money? Why should God bless you more if you don't handle what He gives you well?

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Too many Christians today wish to reward themselves and not be rich toward God. They ensure that their favorite trips, pastimes, and splurges are funded, but they do not even tithe to God. Why should God be happy with them and bless them? If your own child mismanaged the allowance, would you give them more? Why, then, do you expect the Lord to shower down material blessings upon you?

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Most people look at Christian stewardship of money wrongly. They reluctantly give the gift, but they do not change their behavior to ensure better use of the money left over. As a person matures in faith, they realize that their habits are squandering both the gift and the remainder. Through more discipline and accountability comes a higher level of contentment, which in turn leads to a better offering, less unfunded long-term expenses, and the ability to save and invest. Over time this is a powerful combination of attitude and behavior that both gives sacrificially to God and grows wealth. Even in the Church globally most do not follow that pattern, as the temptation of riches and poor self-discipline due to sin prevail. But for those who in prayer and empowerment by the Spirit of God manage the income God has provided, they see for themselves that God is good and often gives more than we need.



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

WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE A REAL ANSWER

It is called an ad hominem (meaning "to the person") attack, and it means a slight that has little to do with the argument. A famous example comes from a foremost Evolutionist, Richard Dawkins, "It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."

Calling intellectual opponents stupid or insane is a bully tactic. It is popular among arrogant intellectuals who wish to insult people they oppose. They feel entitled to do so because they are convinced they are right. They think that it will sway some people to agree with them if they see how convinced and correct they are.

One of the hostile replies to Harrison Butker's commencement speech at Benedictine College came from a liberal woman who said that he can, "go F--- himself!" When people are filled with hate and disrespect, they give themselves permission to verbally assault those they hate.

Expect such responses to arise when you have intellectually cornered an opponent. Rather than acknowledging that the other person has a legitimate point, or providing a salient rebuttal, an emotional flare causes verbal hatred to erupt. When someone does that to you, don't worry much about it. It means you are winning the argument and they are frustrated.

MARTYRDOM

The world witnessed what was done to the residents of Bucha, Ukraine in a war that has sadly lasted far too long. Some were tortured and then killed. It raises the question, could you do it? Could you remain steadfast in the face of torture and death? Christians are called by Christ to be faithful to death. The word martyr is the English transliteration of the Greek word for witness. Refusing to deny, even upon pain of death - that is the ultimate witness to Christ. Do you intend on developing your spirit such that literally nothing would turn you away from Christ?

CANADIAN GIVES A WARNING FOR CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA

Watch the video by that title. Be afraid for our country, because the satanic assault on this nation is underway and so far, succeeding. I am grateful to the Lord that I and the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church are reaching out to the world literally, offering the authentic Gospel and bringing them life through Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, the world is attempting to snuff the light of Christ in Canada and the United States.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COtnr3yDu8E>

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder