

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

IT'S GREAT TO BE LESS MANIPULATED

M We are all manipulated by big industries and big information across the world. Advertising, junk food, weather fear-mongering, and other influences affect our mental health. A large and growing number of school districts are suing the major media platforms – Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat – as “substantially” contributing to a crisis in mental health. These were the school systems that turned a blind eye to what should have been obviously problematic policy of allowing cell phone use in schools. Now that it is a crisis, the schools are looking to ban cell phone use during class time and to blame other entities for the decline in students’ mental health.

A Is this surprising? Humans in large numbers exhibit high naivety in trusting the government and big business, high addictiveness, low contentment, and low spiritual wisdom. Conservative Christians have been warning of the fallout from the overuse of cell phones and social media for years! In 2024, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called for a warning label on social media platforms! In Wisconsin, 34% of high school students had reported feeling so sad or hopeless “almost every day for two weeks in a row” that they had “stopped doing some usual activities”. The National Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that 18% of high schoolers had contemplated suicide.

R We have signs outside of our church with a simple invitation “Need Hope? Join us!” To date, not one family with children has come through our door. Evidently, families in crisis are unaware of the state of their teens, or how to deal with it. Evidently, they don’t think attending a church that specifically wants to give them hope is a good solution. Hopefully, it won’t take a mass shooting event or a suicide for families to reach out for help, but it appears the general crisis is not enough motivation.

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H The situation is not unlike couples who slide into discontent and disassociation. Through years of neglect of proper communication, inconsideration, and letting go of joint activities, they drift away, as they describe. They become separate individuals inhabiting the same space. They are emotionally ripe for an affair, wrongly thinking that they are with the wrong person and that someone else would be right for them. Then the betrayal happens, as though a gun were taken to the relationship. The last nail in the coffin is the divorce. If a couple heading for divorce reaches out for help to a pastor, it is often at the last hour. Like a train weighing hundreds of thousands of pounds and speeding down the track at 70mph with a bridge out in a quarter mile, the doom is all but assured. The couples come to counseling largely at the insistence of one of them; the other is already emotionally checked out. Literally, it is a miracle, an act of God, if the relationship can be saved. If half the relationships are redeemed, it’s a good record, given the lateness of the rescue.

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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.*

The school systems want to sue the media empire, but there should be a class action lawsuit against schools and universities for teaching Darwinism. Abiogenesis and macroevolution have been falsified many times and yet it is still being taught. Intelligent Design and Creationism science and their proponents are routinely discriminated against. The children are being programmed into Humanism and Nihilism. Is it any shock that so many teens see no purpose in life? The problem is the materialistic scientific establishment and the public school system as the media giants! The ancient warnings of the Apostles come to mind, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world" (see I John 2:15-17).

It's wonderful to be manipulated less. I am content to not be on Facebook or any other social media platforms. I consider myself abundantly blessed to avoid all the crap associated with them. I see the people who are death-scrolling, addicted to it. Lust, cravings, and boasting; these consume the lives of the unwise. It leaves them hollow and hopeless. That is not how God wants people to live. What a different outcome could be achieved for teens if they were told the scientific truth about creation, the evidence that supports it, and indirectly infuses life with purpose! What a wonderful difference there would be if students were forced to use their gray matter without screen addition. It would make them less hopeless and more socially balanced!

[Milwaukee Public Schools to sue social media companies over youth mental health crisis](#)

CONTINUING TO SEEK THE GOOD

For the past several years conservative Christians had to endure much evil and nonsense in our culture. It is becoming clear that our government was corrupt on many levels, wasting our tax dollars on patently wicked schemes to indoctrinate children, allowing the world's criminals to flow freely across our borders, and our international relations to suffer.

During the years following the Covid debacle, we had to remain steadfast, even while seeing many weak and worldly Christians fall by the wayside. The number of Nones grew while the number of faithful disciples fell. Even though we are smaller in number now, the Church has been purified and shrunk to its actual size as opposed to the inflated numbers that represented nominal believers.

We are seeing the mercy of God now, an outcome of the faithful who continued to seek good and cried out to Him for relief. Now that we have a godlier - I'm not saying perfect - government, let us encourage one another to be all the more Christlike and holy, strengthening our culture by doing God's will and doing good to others!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder

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