

# THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER  
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

## MID-WINTER BLAST

The U.S. was hit by a weather event that affected many states and millions of people. In the South, more than half a million people lost power to their homes and businesses. There will be burst pipes and water damage in many buildings. All that on a planet that is hospitable to life!

What of the idea that humans will establish a station and eventually a colony on Mars? It's foolish, and one does not have to look much further than the cold snap's chaos of the South to know it. If humans are rendered helpless by a bit of a deep freeze on Earth, what about the environmental and technological difficulties of the red planet? Biosphere 2, conducted to simulate a station on another planet, was a farce. Outside air was clandestinely let into the buildings, and some of the participants came and went for various reasons. It demonstrated the absurdity of the colonization of other planets.

God has given us a terrific capacity to adapt to changing environmental conditions. I experienced a bout of the Winter blahs, what is now called Seasonal Affective Disorder, or depression, in Canada my first Winter. Because of the fierce cold, shortened days, and lack of social network, I started slipping into a funk. I realized it was abnormal, so I pestered congregation members as follows: "I am coming over to your house this week! What day do you want me to come over?" They realized I was isolated and lonely in a cold, dark world, so they began inviting me over. Throughout the winter, I visited with nearly all the families, and as a result, I got to know them better!

Our spirit within us is not Teflon, and we can slide into depression if we do not monitor the conditions around us. Soon, this cold snap will break, and everyone will say it feels like Spring even though the temperature hovers around the freezing point. I am grateful that when it gets cold, the sun shines brilliantly in Wisconsin. It's an excellent pick-me-up on otherwise bleak days!

## FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Our Christian faith is filled with spiritual mysteries! Thankfully, the Gospel is clear enough that even a young person can understand the core beliefs, that Christ became human, died for our redemption, rose from the dead physically, and will return for Judgment. The uncertainties involve aspects of faith such as waiting upon the Lord, discerning good from evil (i.e., the near impossibility of absolutely eliminating all participation in evil), the involvement of the angels in our lives, spiritual warfare against Satan and the demons, and being filled with the Spirit.

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? Ephesians 5:15-21 discusses it, and the upshot is that we are to seek activities that will fill us with the Word of God and encouragement. In that passage, misuse of alcohol, "Do not get drunk on wine," shows that not only activities but substances alter our spiritual condition. If we are filled with wine or another mind-altering substance, we will not likely be filled with the Spirit of God! In go the spirits, and out come the evil thoughts, as Jesus indicated, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean..." (Matthew 15:19-20a).

Music is the primary vehicle of spiritual filling mentioned in that passage, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vv.19-20). Whenever I listen to music, it must be positive, wholesome, and uplifting. I have no desire to flood my mind with dark and evil

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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.*

thoughts from music. Before accepting a song, that is, before I determine whether I will like it and continue to hear it, I use two filters, the first regarding the message of the lyrics, and the second regarding the sound of the song. I encourage you to do the same. That way, when we need a lift, we will always have cheery, positive, and godly thoughts to lift our spirits!

**THESE ARE NOT GOOD PEOPLE**

There are many lies presented to the public by the radical political and social elements in our culture, the ones who organize and report about citizens and illegals who violate the law and spread hatred. I suspect there are many nominal and grossly immature Christians involved in such public gatherings. They are typically biblically ignorant and filled with unctuous self-righteousness to the point that they believe they have a right to violate the law. In them we see the rift in the Christian Church, which today is composed of people who are quietly trying to live holy lives as a witness to Christ, as discussed by Paul the Apostle, "... to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life will win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent upon anybody" (1 Thessalonians 4:11b-12). A portion of the aggressive protesters think it is their spiritual duty to gather in opposition, as though, when the circumstances appear to justify it, maliciously assaulting others is part of the Christian agenda. It is not. At no time is a Christian given authority to assail others, whether an agent of the government, whether Christian or not, or another citizen. Peace and decorum are supposed to mark the Christian and set them apart from the rest of the culture.

When it comes to the personalities of the socio-political would-be martyrs who have been killed by agents of the law, they are typically presented to the public as good people, as though they were doing nothing wrong when they were arrested and killed. Alex Pretti's father tried to dissuade him from participating in the protests. An enlightening video from days prior to Alex's death from being shot by an ICE agent shows him spitting on and kicking a government vehicle, then, when the ICE agents emerge from the vehicle to arrest him, he resists. Just before he was shot, he was interfering with an arrest by ICE agents. These are not the actions of a good person. Involvement in illegal activities and resisting arrest are typical for such people.

The Trump administration promised to make our country safer by removing illegal immigrants. To date, three million of them have volunteered to leave or have been sent back. Yesterday, I saw a statistic that deaths due to drug overdose have dropped 20,000 since the administration launched its attack on drug traffickers from the South! There were 32 people who died in interactions with ICE agents in 2025, and 8 in 2026. The number is rising because the supposedly good public is being manipulated into aggression and lawlessness against the government.

Isn't it wonderful that locking down the borders against wanton killers, those who have brought deadly drugs into our land, will result in 20,000 fewer people dying from drugs! We should expect resistance against such powerful government policies. Christians should be nowhere near the chaos, and God's judgment will fall on those who set themselves up against the government (whether Republican or Democrat) to cause mayhem. They deserve the dire outcomes they suffer. I pray that if apprehended, they repent and are redeemed rather than lost for eternity.

*Blessings,  
Douglas W. Schroeder*

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