

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

EASTER THAW

A For those in the upper states, Easter brings a much-needed thawing of the ice and snow. Winter can be gloomy, as there are many overcast days. Seeing the grass turn green and the temperature sneak above 40 degrees is encouraging to the spirit! It keeps expectant residents in the game, waiting for Summer.

P Easter is the Church's big thaw from the impact of original sin. It is a heart-warming reminder of the grace and glory that God will bring to us on the Day of the Lord, Jesus! We encounter so much wickedness, so much worldliness, that it can bog us down with depressive thoughts. When God's people gather at Easter to focus on the glory that awaits us in Heaven, it melts the icy pain of living in a sin-ravaged world!

R It is healthy for a person mentally and spiritually to acknowledge that humanity's sin, including ours, was borne by Christ on the cross. We are reminded of the need for contrition over our sin and true repentance, including an earnest effort to reform ourselves and live according to the Lord's holy will. Then, on Easter morning, we are enthused by the message of the angels that we need not seek the Living One among the dead. We sharpen our focus to once again fix our gaze heavenward, knowing that because Jesus lives, we will live also, and that nothing, not even death, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord (see Romans 8:38-39)! Let that thought warm your heart and bring peace to your mind!

WHEN FAITH MEANS MORE THAN FAME OR MONEY

I The Chicago Bulls cut guard Jaden Ivey because he made statements as a devout Christian that he does not endorse the NBA's Pride Night, which obnoxiously promotes sexual deviancy. The hostility from the Bulls' management shows that Christianity is the unspoken target in professional sports.

L Ivey found widespread support from other professional athletes, especially pro football players. Ivey offered open criticism of Stephen Curry, who does not openly oppose such culturally accepted agendas in the NBA, "He's (Curry) not even surrendered [to Jesus] ... Y'all believe he's a Christian because he wrote Philippians 4:13 on his shoes... Friendship with the world is enmity with God... I pray he comes to the truth." That is a manly Christian witness! No wonder the Bulls management hates him enough to cut him from the roster.

Meanwhile, the Archdiocese of Cleveland issued a request that Roman Catholic baseball fans attending the home opener on Good Friday refrain from hot dogs. Why? Because it is tradition in the Roman Church to fast on Good Friday, which is kept according to the letter of the law by not eating meat, ergo, nix the hot dogs. This makes Christians look like idiots. A person can be a "good Catholic" by observing outward traditions while living a thoroughly secular lifestyle. They c

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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.*

can be in good standing in the Roman faith by keeping the institutional relationship with the Church going, while keeping Jesus at arm's length by disdaining the Word of God and wanting nothing to do with it personally.

What a contrast can be seen in the sphere of Christianity! A pro athlete stands against the world's immorality and pays the price, and an entire diocese focuses on a facile commitment to a ritualistic faith.

<https://www.outkick.com/sports/christian-athletes-rally-behind-jaden-ivey-after-bulls-cut-him-over-religious-beliefs>

[Catholic Diocese asks faithful to abstain from eating hot dogs, meat amid Cleveland Guardians home opener vs. Chicago Cubs on Good Friday](#)

A MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFT OF LIFE

When Catherine Mornhineway and her partner, Andrew Ford, faced a horrible truth, the baby Catherine was carrying in pregnancy had anencephaly, a condition which meant the baby would not survive birth. Inspired by a Grey's Anatomy episode about an expectant mother in the same circumstances, Catherine chose to give birth to the baby so that its organs could be donated!

What a beautiful response to a horrible situation, turning death into life! May this sort of thinking become widespread so that both motherhood and the preborn are cherished!

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pregnant-woman-learned-her-baby-225800215.html>

EXPECT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE LITTLE HARD EVIDENCE

For all the hoopla and bluster regarding UFOs, we still haven't seen much by way of hard evidence. Despite UFO-crazed movie director Steven Spielberg's latest flying saucer film, Disclosure Day, the trailer for which strikes me as downright stupid, we have about as much proof of extraterrestrials as the movie has sensibility.

Humans, as a lot, are easily manipulated by Satan and our sinful flesh into beliefs that are intellectually stilted and morally bankrupt. No wonder the word of God considers us to be like sheep, silly and prone to wandering! The odds are much greater that encounters with purported aliens are due to demonic activity rather than ETs. Foolishly, humans discount the existence of angels and are clueless about the potential for demonic activity, misleading millions. Easter Christians are not to be so naïve! Time is far better spent researching the science supporting the biblical Flood than watching inane movies and fruitless videos about government cover-ups and crashed craft. I predict that twenty years from now, unfounded alien stories will still circulate!

*Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder*

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