

# THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## **CYCLICAL EMOTIONS**

Do not be surprised if your emotions cycle through several “settings”; frustration, despair, anger, and disgust as examples. It is normal to move through different emotions as we try to handle the many changes and disappointment from missed expectations that come in an event such as the Covid-19 crisis. I suggest you allow God’s Spirit to heal you by availing yourself of the Word of God, which contains much assurance, hope and forgiveness – yes, forgiveness for our oft less than sunny disposition.

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## **SIT AND “DO NOTHING”**

A revelation that may have come to us during “safer at home’ is along the lines, “So this is what it is like to be... confined/limited/elderly, etc.” In other words, diminished to the point that you are homebound. It’s not fun to curtail activities we need to support ourselves, or activities we enjoy.

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There are special occasions in Scriptures where the Lord tells a person or group to sit still and watch him work. At those times the people were to have a deep appreciation of the Lord’s omnipotence and grace. However, most often the Bible urges us to be busy about our occupation and the Lord’s work, that is, exercising our faith in service to God and as a witness to others.

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This interim gives us appreciation for the waning years, when we become limited. It was so easy to neglect the infirm and elderly – because we were “busy”. Well, right now we are not nearly as busy. You are not still neglecting them, are you? As you age you will eventually become one of those who will mostly sit and not participate in the maddening rush of society. When I visit the shut-ins I wonder who will God send to visit me? Hopefully, there will be some considerate souls who understand the need to visit those who can only mostly sit.

## **SWINE FLU**

Why isn’t anyone talking about it? I was stupefied when reminded in a lighter read, [Dairylandia: Dispatches from A State of Mind](#), by Steve Hannah, about the Swine Flu, and that the 1918 epidemic that killed an estimated *50 million* people worldwide was an especially virulent form. *Swine* Flu; from pigs. Now, people are freaking out because of Bat Flu? So, is that the reality – a flu virus that transitioned from a bat? The world did not end in 1918, nor in 1976, and it will not now. But, it sure seems like powerful entities controlling public perception of this virus want us to think that if we continued on as they did in those eras, we are killers, contributing to the deaths of purportedly millions of people.

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I have a few questions: Who has the right to politicize disease? Since when are we responsible for our breath; as though we have to ensure we do not infect someone else? Should that be done (policy) with a purported 2% lethal virus? What if a 15-20% lethal virus comes along? What are the costs to attempting to stop the world, or perhaps put it on pause? What are the long term psychological, spiritual complications and outcomes of teaching a generation of people that you do not push through trials, but you run from them, that is, you go home and sit? How much fear of death and illness will be generated by this panic?

I suspect we will have very little success globally at containing the virus. Further, where is the social responsibility ending? Are we responsible for the alcoholics who kill people in car accidents? Perhaps bar owners should be sued. Are we responsible for the miscreants from poverty stricken neighborhoods? Maybe the citizens should be arrested for allowing them to escape to deal drugs and pimp. Someone's job is going to be lost due to an illegal alien. Perhaps Democrats who support such things should be jailed.

Perhaps Swine Flu failed to kill as many because we were not nearly so mobile in 1976. Or, perhaps, humanity now has shifted mentality, and no longer accepts the inevitability of death, and perhaps death on a large scale. *Watch out for the negative outcomes when culture shifts so that the individual becomes responsible for the welfare of the collective. Personal responsibility is given up, freedom is given up, for control. That is a dangerous state of affairs!*

### **BEEN THINKING OF CHRIST'S RETURN?**

You know it's coming, but it is so easy to become distracted. If you think the Covid-19 pandemic is a problem, imagine the panic that will happen when the Lord returns and the worldly people who dismissed Christ realize that they are damned! Jesus describes his return as happening during a time when the love of most will grow cold and people will be consumed with earthly matters. Don't lose sight of the goal.

### **"BARELY SURVIVABLE CONDITIONS"**

The article's title said, "Billions of people will live in 'barely survivable' conditions within 50 years due to climate change". So happy to know that! And you thought the virus was a problem! It appears Doomsday soothsayers have not lost their touch for shock effect pronouncements. Where are the articles that say, "In 50 years mental health care will eclipse our current 'Dark Ages' treatment; millions will be relieved of anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies." Or, perhaps this, "In 50 years plastics will be replaced with biologic degradable materials and the oceans will be saved." It's always so much easier to see the bleak, dark future. Resist the urge to despair!

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder