

# THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## YELLING IN MY FACE

Pastors receive all sorts of feedback to preaching and teaching, and I receive a fair bit of response to The Word Today programs, most of it very positive. Some are less cheery, such as the anonymous, empty TWT envelope with large printing on the back, “NO NOT DEMOCRATS REPUBLICANS SHOULD BE JAILED – NAMELY DONALD STUPID TRUMP!!!!!!!!!!!!” Third party, typically anonymous, communication (most electronic) is the preference today of persons who wish to intimidate or demean others.

Pastor Paul long ago told me an old preaching adage; if everyone is happy with what you are preaching, you’re not preaching well. Pastors often have a pretty good idea of the identity of the note sender. The irony is these vociferous communicators think they are making a big impact. There have been two times in my pastoral ministry when people were shouting at me on the phone and I hung up on them. This note is the equivalent of shouting in my face. I throw out such anonymous notes, and they have little impact on my ministry. Christians should be agreeable to exchange of opinion and even cordial debate. We do not need to take ridicule and vehemence, but can walk away. It is better to dismiss ourselves than respond in kind, and so harm our witness.

The Word Today is an “apolitical” ministry; the goal is to save souls and promote the Kingdom of Christ. My allegiance to any political party is based on how closely it aligns to Biblical principles of pro-Life, heterosexual marriage and gender identity, moral absolutes expressed in the Ten Commandments, justice for the poor, loving all people as made in the image of God (not being racist), etc. I almost never use the terms Democrat/Republican on air, and only rarely in sermons. Why? Because ultimately the Christian is to be focused on building the Kingdom of Christ. Angry notes used to irritate me, but no longer. I expect unhappiness, and even unpleasantness, in response to the proclamation of the Word of God, especially the Law. Many do not wish to hear judgment of their self-righteous attitude. Christians should be prepared at any time to be the target of mockery or rebuke for promotion of the Gospel of Christ.

## GRACE SHOWN BY ELDERS

Not all older persons have a Christ-like demeanor, but the ones who do have much to teach us! Recently an elder member of Our Shepherd called to apologize; he mailed \$120 in cash in a manila envelope – it was stolen. The USPS attached a “We’re sorry your mail arrived mangled,” note. An unscrupulous party stole the contents, and our senior was *apologizing* to us for not receiving the offering! Will the world ever see such principled people in a generation again? As for the thief, we pray they repent and be reformed in faith in Christ, or else he/she will face God’s wrath in the Judgment.



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### **BLACK CHILDREN ARE SUCCEEDING – AT CHARTER SCHOOLS**

The article entitled, “Thomas Sowell: Black success blocked by charter school’s enemies,” I pointed out an uncomfortable truth for opponents of charter schools, “New York’s charter school students are predominantly black and Hispanic, and live in low income neighborhoods. In 2019 most students in the city’s public schools failed to pass the statewide tests in mathematics and English. But most of the city’s charter school students pass in both subjects.”

I wonder if there is a correlation between children succeeding in charter schools and parents of those children *not* protesting. My suspicion is that persons who keep the focus on their children’s academic advancement would not wish for them to get caught up in the politics and potential riotous behavior of current social movements. The odds of success/accomplishment are strongly in favor of the child pressing their mind to excel in homework, versus the child taught to ignore schoolwork to protest – regardless of race. Congratulations to the Charter School children of New York, and shame upon a public school system that keeps dumbing down tests!

### **KIDS GETTING PTSD**

Stress isn’t only for soldiers; watch our children being overcome by PTSD. What do we expect from adults who freak out over an illness? A generation is being scarred.

### **MUCH MEDIA INFLAMES TENSION**

The Yahoo News article’s title read, “Officer points gun at woman in suspected stolen car.” The article should have been written, “Woman in suspected stolen car held at gunpoint by officer.” Do you see the subtle, but critical difference? The first highlights the officer’s actions and calls them into question, the second puts the scrutiny on the woman. In this instance the woman cooperated and was not charged; it ended happily.

What is not seen in the videos of shootings, claimed police brutality, etc. are the actions of the *suspects*. Did they do something unlawful? Did they meet police demands with disrespect and disobedience? Did they resist arrest? *Notice the cultural conversation is not about the trend to ignore or resist authority?* Violators are getting a free ride. No wonder monuments are being toppled across the nation!

Romans 13:1a-2, “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities... Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.” Christianity teaches it is wicked to oppose an officer of the state. Why do we have people resisting arrest, opposing police? Because they are militantly *anti-Christian, secularist and/or anarchist*. The media in its thirst for eyeballs spins headlines to maximum emotional effect, and in so doing pours fuel on the fire of social unrest. It is popular now to put officers under the gun, rather than insist on lawbreakers reforming their actions.

Blessings!  
Douglas W. Schroeder