

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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2020

Thoughts
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THE STING OF DEATH; REV. PAUL R. SCHROEDER CALLED HOME

It has been about two weeks since my father, Paul Schroeder has died, and our family is emotionally healing from the loss and grief. Daily we are being renewed in our minds by the promises of resurrection and eternal life, and we anticipate the reunion with those who “fall asleep” in Christ. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” I always love the way Jesus inquires of Martha, “Do you believe this?” *He asked as they were standing at the grave of Lazarus, her brother!*

Do you believe Jesus’ words? Our family does, and I hope that your family does, so that when your loved one is laid to rest you will have the comfort of eternal life in our Lord, Jesus Christ! Paul the Apostle wrote in I Corinthians 15 (One of Pastor Paul’s Key Chapters of the Bible), “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (v.56-57).” Just as an animal’s venom is most intense when it strikes, then fades, the “sting of death” is acute initially, causing much anguish and often crying, but the pain fades, becomes duller over time, until eventually almost entirely gone. Yet, the memory of the loved one remains. It is in that comfort that I share in this “early edition” THOUGHTS details about Pastor Paul’s memorial service.

This is to be considered, in contrast to the world’s celebration of the deceased’s life, a *Celebration of Paul Schroeder’s Life in Christ*. The phrase “in Christ” denotes both his being called to Christ in his earthly life, which was expressed in his personality, marriage and ministry, and his life to come in Christ, in which he will live in a glorified body, free from sin in Heaven. Here are the details of the service, should you feel safe attending and have the opportunity.

Date: October 24, 2020

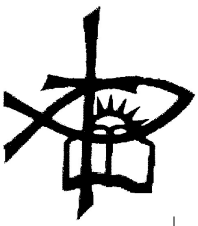
Location: Our Shepherd Lutheran Church; Greendale, WI

Visitation: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m. (Live stream as well, see website for link)

Lunch to follow: Given the uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19 crisis, we are attempting to accommodate as many persons as possible, so there will be a sign up for lunch. See the sign up at ourshepherdlutheran.org.

*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*



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The **obituary** for Pastor Paul can be seen at ourshepherdlutheran.org. Please send your remembrance comments about his impact on your life to bethb@ourshepherdlutheran.org or message on our Facebook page at Our Shepherd Greendale.

Our family plans to have Sylvia visit the week of the memorial service, so that you will be able to see her again. I know that she is dearly loved by many, and that you will want to extend your kindness and reassurances in faith to her. If you wish to contact her and would not be able to make it to Wisconsin, she would enjoy in a note sent to her at her address in Florida; 302 Del Mar, Lady Lake, FL 32159.

Pastor Paul's remains will be laid to rest in the Memorial Garden of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford, FL., where he and Sylvia worshiped prior to his moving into the assisted living, and then the memory care facility. Amazing Grace's Pastor James Rockey was instrumental in ministering to Paul through occasional visits, and as he was actively dying, through the Rite of Commendation of the Dying. I also use this rite to coach Christians to finish the race of faith strong in the Lord.

WITH GOD'S FAVOR, TWT IS SECURE

2020 has been a time of testing for The Word Today. All living things that the Creator has made, and Christian ministries, have seasons of growth and seasons of strain. Covid-19 has killed not only people, but also some Christian ministries, crippling many more. Thankfully, due to the foresight of Pastor Paul, along with the wisdom of the board of Elders of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, who prayed with, advised and supported his vision and leadership, and the faithful support of the membership and partners such as yourself, The Word Today is not in danger. I led the move to take dramatic action quickly in April of this year to improve efficiency and reduce ministry costs. 100% of the donations have always gone toward the mission! Note that these were not administrative costs, but ones associated with the frequency of translation and production of the program. It is a miracle that, given the scale of the threat, TWT dropped only 3 languages, ones with other Christian presence, leaving a total of 67 still being aired. Those decisions put TWT in a position to not only stop massive loss of languages, but to add languages again sooner.

I have no plans to remove Pastor Paul as a speaker on TWT. When he retired, I suggested that TWT use his back programs versus my recording two additional programs per month. Those savings allowed the addition of nearly one dozen languages. I intend that Pastor Paul's personality continue to shape the listeners going forward. We both bring different aspects of the Word of God to light, and I believe listeners enjoy the distinctiveness of our team ministry. The decades of wisdom and dogged determination of Pastor Paul's faith has built a legacy of global missions. Many of us have seen it grow and blossom! I pray that God uses me to cultivate that growth in the years ahead, and I will be privileged to lead you in that endeavor!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD