

THOUGHTS

By the father/son team
Pastor Paul R Schroeder
Pastor Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

OCTOBER

2009

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129

CHOICE

The unbeliever has no choice. They do not have freedom. They are slaves of Satan and can only follow his direction. They are slaves and captives.

The believer has been set free from Satan. Therefore they have a choice. As Christians they can choose between following Satan, if they are foolish enough to choose going back to slavery, or they can choose to follow God's will.

Almost every temptation of the world is dominated by the desire for one of 4 things:

1. Power
2. Glory
3. Money and Possessions
4. Pleasure

If these temptations succeed in causing us to choose them we will be sinning, going against God, and choosing a path of trouble, confusion, strife and rejection of peace and harmony.

If, on the other hand, we reject these temptations and choose to follow god's will—we will find peace, happiness, and harmony in our lives. God is the source of love, and He will bless us with His loving presence.

It doesn't mean the Christian will have no difficulties. There will still be problems and difficulties.

But, they will be met successfully by the grace of God as we strive to follow His will. He will give strength, endurance, and hope. He promises victory to those who trust Him.

So the choice is clear. Follow the world and Satan—your life will be one of sorrow, desperation and loss—even eternal loss and sorrow.

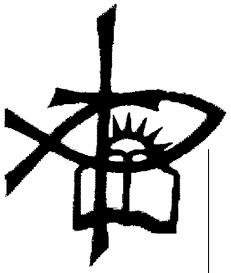
Or, choose Christ and His way. He will guide you to fulfillment, joy, purpose and victory—even eternal victory.

Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

+++++

FAT ATHLETIC PIGS

Why should we be quick to idolize professional sports? While there are some outstanding values and lessons in life to learn from these icons of physiological prowess, there are other, shall we say, less savory aspects to their behavior. Case in point, the tradition of the San Diego Chargers to force the rookie first round pick to pick up a heavy tab at a dining establishment – he treats the team to a decadent meal. The Yahoo Sports Blog reports that Larry English, this year's "winning" rookie, was roughed up for \$14,508.67 as the team indulged on multiple lobster tails among other delicacies.



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

FAT ATHLETIC PIGS (continued)

How's that for a lesson in corpulent consumerism? Or maybe a page out of the athletic excess rule book? How sad that "heroes" of the gridiron act at times like nothing more than fat slobs with little tolerance for discipline. This gratuitous display of mammon and calories is further evidence that America is a nation of excess *unapologetically*.

In his weird autobiography [Crossbearer](#) a Born Again Joe Eszterhas railed against the near deification of Cleveland Cavalier's LeBron James in a series of ads which showed the superstar in near beatific splendor. When sports are a matter of devotion, Christ has been supplanted, and the idol of athletics planted firmly on the throne of the heart.

LIAR! LIAR!

My mind automatically continues that phrase with, "...pants on fire," the classic denunciation of perceived deception by children in the era I grew up. Rep. Joe Wilson lashed out at President Obama during an address to Congress, saying out loud what thousands of elected officials on both sides of the fence have privately thought of the other party at times - "You lie!"

Notice how egregious Representative Wilson's sin, how unforgivable in the political realm. And, how true to his innermost moral compass. Tact, civility, and an "agreeable" demeanor must be the rule it seems in politics today – at least in public. Meanwhile the venomous attitudes continue unabated behind the scenes. Our country seems as spiritually divided as it was during the Civil war, the difference being that we do not have any single moral flashpoint to ignite combat (like slavery), and we're too comfortable to give up our material possessions to fight for the principles we say we'll die for.

John McArthur points out in [The Jesus You Can't Ignore](#) that our Savior had no hesitancy to rake the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law over the hot coals of His theological fire. In fact, aside from the first contact with a Pharisee, Nicodemus, Jesus resoundingly condemns them publicly. His stinging rebukes were part of the reason they wanted to dispose of him. It's certainly not inherently sinful to render spiritual judgment in full view of the world. The trick is, He is sinless, and we are not.

Wilson's outburst calls to mind the warning of I John 4:1, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." Like a carbon monoxide detector, Wilson's moral judgment sounded – loudly! Whether or not he was right, time will tell. However, just as clearly the Christian must detect heresy, false prophecy, and compromise of the Gospel. We need to sound the alarm when we see mangling of the Word of God and call it what it is, a lie. Maybe we can simply *state it* and not shout it in condemnation. That may give us more receptive ears to our judgment.

INDIA

I just returned from India at the end of September; a mission trip to preach and encourage indigenous clergy, visit the mission field there, etc. The Word Today is huge in India! We have legions of people who love Jesus and are faithful witnesses there!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with **GOD'S WORD**

October

2

0

0

9