

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

LOOK ALIVE IN 2025!

Our church theme for the year is "Come Alive in 2025!" We all have dead spots in our lives which need shaping up. Maybe your prayer life is on life support. By prayer and the power of the Spirit of God, we can bring those dead areas back to life! God wishes to enliven us, to remake us! We do not wish to be Christian deadbeats but vibrant, active! We will not be like plastic produce, but authentic branches that grow from Jesus, the Vine (see John chapter 15)! Let's look alive in 2025!

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EVERY DAY IN HEAVEN WILL FEEL LIKE A RECOVERY DAY

Recovering is a beautiful feeling! I just spent three days ill and just within the past hour my body is telling me that I am recovering. We know when it is happening, and it is an overwhelmingly positive experience. We may still be weak, not 100%, but it's a good feeling, nevertheless. It's good emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

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I wonder if Heaven will bring a sense of permanent recovery from Original Sin. I suspect we will forever be feeling grateful to be free from the accursed load of weakness, temptations, and regret. We will feel lighter, stronger, purer, more grateful to God. We will know that as time goes on, we will not decay, corrupt, or cave in to sin - there won't be any sin. What a great thing to anticipate!

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EXCITEMENT OF MORNING WALKS

They are not typically exciting but often relaxing and peaceful. This morning was the day after Christmas, and I was still recovering from the bug that I caught at the perfect time to make leading the Christmas worship schedule a challenge. It is bound to happen every so often over the course of a pastor's ministry. It wasn't nearly as bad as Christmas 2020, when I had Covid-19 and pneumonia, which landed me in the hospital over the Christmas services. I had sent a video greeting to the congregation sharing the joy of Christ and telling them I was not dying.

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The world seemed serene as it was still dark - I often walk in the morning in the dark. As the seasons change, I am treated to spectacular Winter and Summer sunrises. It was foggy due to the warmish temperature of about 38 degrees and snow still blanketing the ground. As I topped the first long hill, I saw some vehicles at a stop light coming my way. One big pickup truck looked obnoxious with several forms of running and fog lights ablaze, which I thought was overdone. As it passed, I turned to look at it and saw, "JESUS OFFERS A BETTER LIFE," emblazoned on the side! That clever driver! His attention getting light show got me to look!

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2025

As I wound my way through my favorite section which peeled off the busy road onto bike and walking paths through fields and woods, I heard a painful sounding cry of an animal that I suspect was being killed. Three times it let loose with its death wails, then it was silent. A dog in the distance barked. Something had found its food from the Lord's hand.



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

The excitement continued after I showered and headed to the post office before going to the church. As I drove down the closely wooded hill to make the turn toward the village and the post office, I glanced to my left, and I saw Penelope! No, not a person, but a white deer that has become a sensation in the Milwaukee area. It was like an apparition, standing in the snow and fog, but as it was only 20 feet off the road, I was certain of its reality. It looked odd to me, as much like an oversized, tall lamb as a deer. Perhaps that was my expectation of white animals imprinted upon the quick glance. Several hundred feet further along, a man was walking five dogs of various sizes! It could be an exciting morning for him if they would see the deer!

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE KIDS

Grade school children who participated in a community driven science project to collect samples that might be analyzed for medical use found a breakthrough compound in goose poop! A strain of bacteria in the goose feces proved to be powerful in combatting some cancers such as melanoma and ovarian!

What a fabulous thing! This is the kind of hard science that enhances our lives, not the nonsense of Darwinism! Talk of abiogenesis and macroevolution add nothing to development of cancer fighting treatments. Hopefully, these students will learn that hard science is beneficial, while evolutionary story time is not.

HAPPY THOUGHTS: DINOSAURS AND DRAGONS

Over time it is becoming obvious that dragons were not mythical. They were dinosaurs, and people encountered them! There is too much paleontological and sociological evidence that is dovetailing to dismiss the conclusion. Ever stranger skulls of dinosaurs are being discovered that look like dragons! The historical depictions of dragons are uncannily accurate to the reconstructions of the dinosaur skulls!

The pre-Flood world was a wild environment, with an emphasis on wild! The creatures that lived on Earth prior to the Flood were fantastical to our imagination. As we dig deeper, we realize He populated the Earth with stunningly big and strong creatures!

We rightly should be excited for what God has in store for us! We are seeing evidence that His creative capacity exceeds our expectation! If he can make a world so teeming with robust life, try to imagine what our experience will be when our dwelling place will be in a restored world, a new home of righteousness! We have a stunningly exciting future to enjoy!

Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder