

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*Sometimes it's what you don't hear that gets your attention.* Let me elaborate...but only as much as I need to. I am writing this article the day after Easter, or *Resurrection Day* as I like to call it. A few hours ago, in the wee hours of the morning, a little after midnight to be exact, I awoke to the need to visit the bathroom. This is normative for me these days. Rarely do I sleep all the way through the night. I trust that I am not alone in this experience. But what came next was not normal. Upon flushing the toilet and walking out of the room I did not hear the sound of something. That something was the sound of the toilet tank refilling with water. Immediately I opened the shower door and turned the handle and perceived the lack of running water. As I passed by the sink I turned on the faucet and no water came out. Slowly I was beginning to see a pattern. Why is it that I kept turning on the spigots? In the middle of a desperate and cruel wakeup call I desired earnestly that this reality not be true...*there was no water coming into the house.* Well, what's the big deal, you may be asking? The problem with no water in the house is that the water comes *into* the house from *under* the house. Joyfully interrupting my nighttime slumber (heavy on the sarcasm here), I strapped on my headlamp and donned my hoodie to go outside in the drizzling rain to take a peek... into the darkened and creepy crawlspace. Once I opened the door I discovered where all the water went. Out of the broken supply line that brings water from the well. So now I sit eagerly awaiting a phone call from the first available and competent plumber to restore the supply of water to my house.

*Sometimes it's what you don't hear that gets your attention.* Something I am not hearing enough of these days, culturally speaking, is of a far more serious nature than waiting on a plumber to come. People do not seem to be anticipating the coming of King Jesus. Most people do not know that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Perhaps they are too busy being their own kings and lords that they fail to recognize the authority of Jesus. People all around us thirst to death. And they don't seem to be crying out. Our land is parched from the lack of provision that God has promised. People are choosing not to drink. Because we as a culture have failed to acknowledge God as God we have been given over to a mind of depravity. We are a Romans 1 culture and don't know how thirsty we really are. We refuse to take a drink of Living Water, even when it's offered.

Hydrophobia is an old word for the condition known as rabies and literally means the fear of water. *Like a mad dog foaming at the mouth* was often the word picture for people who were in the grip of a rabid physical condition. Rabies will afflict humans and animals so severely that painful throat spasms develop to the degree that the creatures cannot, or will not, drink...no matter how thirsty they may be. The lack of water and the pain of partaking it soon will manifest itself in insanity. They will not take in what they so desperately need. They live out the short lives of mad dogs and men. So what sound does a dying culture make?

*Sometimes it's what you don't hear that gets your attention.* Today I hear the loud voices of a culture that don't speak a lot about life...but have a lot to say about death. And some of the youngest among us, the leaders in the next generation, have been starved of the knowledge of the source of Life...the Spring of Living Water...the Personal Word of the God. They express lives of hopelessness and purposelessness and pointlessness. YOLO, I have heard it called...an acronym for You Only Live Once. God's word agrees that it is appointed to man to die once...then the judgment. Our culture thinks they are living...but are disconnected to Life...

*"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. (Amos 8:11-12)*

As in the context of the preaching of Amos, God's people have but one hope...the Word of God. The question that we need to ask ourselves...are we drinking it in so we can give it out? If you are like an empty faucet you can soon get reconnected to a fresh supply of, running, living water when you simply Engage God's word...Live what you hear, Remember that Jesus is coming soon, and Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand!

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam