

May 3, 2020

Scott's Thoughts



“As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick

darkness.” (Ezekiel 34:12, ESV)

We are slowly returning to normal. That is good and bad. Seems like all coins have two sides, doesn't it? First, let's think about the good. Without realizing it the government really crippled sin for a season. Domestic assaults are down not up as you might expect with having to stay closed up in the same house with each other for several weeks. The murder rate has dropped across the country. Almost all crimes have dropped. We can soon feel much better about moving around town and more comfortable seeing friends and family. We will be able to travel and do those things that we like to do. I have noticed several inquire on Facebook if the golf course is open. That is not something I do but I know many who are eager to. As for myself, I want to make a trip to St. Louis and visit with my grandchildren. For now, with the easing of restrictions, we are at least headed back to the way it was and we welcome that. However, there will still be some who will hesitate to go all the way back to the way it was.

The Bad: Crimes and domestic violence may rise again. Bars will reopen. Drunk driving will probably increase and fights involving

intoxicated individuals will probably rise again. There will once again be small children taking care of even smaller children as mom and dad both go back to work. However, I am praying this will not happen.

I once wrote a sermon with the title “I'm not normal.” A great deal of it was based on the front page news of a major newspaper. The old saying in journalism is “If it bleeds it leads,” and means that the bad things that happen are the most reported news stories. You can tell that from the 24-hour coverage of this pandemic. Most of what we have heard is the number of new cases and the number of new deaths. Now that those numbers are falling, they have started reporting the next wave that they are not even sure of.

I don't want to be normal. I don't want to be doom and gloom but I want to find that silver lining in the storm cloud. I want to give just for the joy of giving not because it is a designated day to do so or because of some form of recognition. I want to share the greatest message ever given to man. The message tells about the Son who died to give life to me and to everyone who is willing to obey His gospel.

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:1–2, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott