

December 20, 2020

Scott's Thoughts



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6, ESV) This week we will celebrate Christmas 2020.

As we celebrate the Christmas holidays some would say because of the year we have had that something is bound to go wrong. I guess that is a possibility. On the other hand, we can look back and with just a fractional effort we can find many good things about this year of 2020.

The year started off as normal, but things were quickly overtaken by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. At first it was kind of novel to stay home and do nothing, but then many realized that they must do something. All those people with nothing to do decided to do home maintenance that had been neglected for many years. Additions were built, fences repaired, and lawns kept in better shape than they had been in years. That is when the lumber shortage started. There were times when a trip to Lowe's was not to buy supplies, but to see if it would be possible to buy those needed supplies. There were also healthful benefits from all this activity. Some people lost weight, lowered blood pressure, and just got healthier than they had been for years.

The summer months brought a slowing of the spread of the virus and a more relaxed feeling about the wearing of masks and social distancing. Travel was down. Because many families didn't

travel, they learned to better communicate with each other and actually enjoyed each other's company. It is my understanding the sale of old fashion board games had shown an uptick in sales.

Each one of us has, if we will just take the time to count, many, many things to be thankful for this year. As we now approach the Christmas Holidays, we have even more reasons to be thankful. I watched on the news as the very first health care worker in Oklahoma received the first dose of the vaccine for COVID-19. The thinking is that by the end of February twenty million Americans will have received the vaccine and ninety days after that more than one hundred million will have been vaccinated. Mask and social distancing will fade from our lives shortly after that. That is good news.

Christmas really is a good news time of year, not in a fake sense of people smiling and mouthing good wishes without thinking, not in that way. The really good news is Christ, God in the flesh. Jesus entered our world to show us how to live, to provide forgiveness of sin, and to give hope of eternal life. The cost was paid by God, a cost that no one could in any way pay. We can't earn it. We can only accept and obey. The price paid will never be equaled again and it is laid before us free of charge. Now that is good news.

“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” (Luke 2:10, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott