

February 14, 2021

# Scott's Thoughts



*“It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him.”* (Jeremiah 36:22, ESV)

I have never been shy about making it known that I do not like cold weather. Any time I have to put on a jacket it is colder than I want to be. Since I have lived here, I have been told on many of those “jacket-wearing” occasions that, “We have not had a ‘Bad’ winter.” Well, that streak has been broken. Winter came early to Newkirk in late October. We had a horrendous ice storm that left a lot of people without power and broke the branches off many trees. This week has brought the coldest, most extreme, and prolonged cold temperatures that I have experienced in many years.

However, the coldest I have ever been was during the ice storm on New Year’s Eve, 1979. On that New Year’s Eve, we had freezing rain all day and the temperature dropped to -14 degrees that night. During the freezing rain, a large limb of one of the trees in the yard broke and destroyed the drop from the power pole to the house. My brother-in-law and I worked all day in that freezing rain replacing my electric service. Then the power company told me someone had to be at the house, or they would not reconnect. So, I sent Ava and our two daughters to my sister’s house, but I spent four bone shivering days in a sleeping bag while I

waited on the power company to come. Even after the electricity came on, I thought I would never get warm and developed an immense dislike for cold weather.

There are those who have a greater appreciation for winter than I do. Yet, there are good things that I can see in winter. The most obvious is it makes me appreciate the other seasons of the year. My personal favorite is summer. It is not hard to wake up with the sun already up in the sky. The yard looks so much more inviting and I’m able to work in the shop without gloves on. My old bones seem to like the heat and I can step into the shade and enjoy a breeze.

We have a phrase in English language that refers to “The Winter of Life.” This kind of winter also brings a new appreciation for many. They can remember the days of summer when they had good health. Odd isn’t it that sometimes we place little or no value on something until we no longer have it. Those are the times we sit and say if only I had known! In reality, we were told but we just waited too long to pay attention.

We need to take heed. There is a spiritual winter coming if we don’t prepare. Am I ready? Have I become what God wants me to be? Am I ready for that great day?

*“For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* (2 Corinthians 6:2, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott