

March 14, 2021

# Scott's Thoughts



*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the*

*Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24–25, ESV)

I can remember so vividly the many times my family spent on our front porch. Growing up, we shared many events like learning to ride bicycles, jumping rope, throwing frisbees, and catching lightning bugs. Our front porch was the center of those family events. Mom and dad always sat on the swing, while all six of us children sat on the steps or played in the front yard. We would also talk to the neighbors who were out on their porch. When we visited Dad’s folks in Southern Illinois, my aunt and uncle had an even bigger porch where we enjoyed many family activities, and of course they had a swing.

Over the years the tradition of porch-sitting and swinging has become almost nonexistent. We have built new houses that, by in large, have minimal porches. Many are just a few square feet and have no room for a swing. Now, instead of having the warmth of porches and swings, we wall ourselves into our homes where we enjoy comfortable year-round temperatures. We keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Many never even open a window, except when the smoke alarm in the kitchen sounds off. Add to that our society is increasingly buying

everything we need on-line with home delivery. The result is that our social contact is becoming an ever-shrinking circle.

Each of us hears stories about hermits, who lives alone, not wanting anyone to visit, and avoids contact with others as much as possible. I believe these people do exist, but it certainly is not what we expect of each other. However, it seems our societies’ lifestyles are becoming more like hermits. This is not a choice we consciously make, but the circumstances surrounding our lives seem to force it upon us. Our children have been separated from others their own age and it has been bad for them and for their parents. Some of our elderly people sit for days at home. Some are in care facilities with only the most occasional visitor. Others become banished from someone’s life. Depression and anxiety are as real as real gets. We long for contact with others and can get encouragement by getting just a little bit of contact. A card in the mail or a phone call can brighten the day for someone who is unable to get out.

God designed us to be social beings and maybe now, more than ever, the church that Jesus built is of great importance. We need face to face contact. We need to laugh, hug, and communicate with each other. We need Jesus and His church so we can spend eternity together.

*“And from there they continued to Beer; that is the well of which the Lord said to Moses, “Gather the people together, so that I may give them water.””* (Numbers 21:16, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott