

May 16, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24, ESV)

When mechanics get together, they talk about cars, planes, boats, or whatever kind of machinery they work on. Sometimes they just need another set of eyes to help see the answer. Preachers are no different and like mechanics, Charlie and I spoke about our work this past week. Charlie and Olive have been friends of ours for many years and they visited with us this week. We met around 1984 when Ava and I lived in Abbeville, LA. Since our first meeting we have had more contact on the phone than in person, but we have always enjoyed those in-person meetings. We live in two very different places, yet we face many of the same challenges.

I know the value of having someone else to bounce off an idea and just like mechanics, we bounced off ideas this week. Charlie and I spent hours talking about old friends and catching up. We also spent hours talking about passages of scripture that are special to each of us and other passages that people have wrestled with for several millennia. I wish that all scripture verses were clear, concise, and easy to understand, but God has not given us a first-grade reader. What He has given us is a book that has been studied, studied, and

restudied, thousands of times over. Now don't get me wrong, what we must do to be saved is certainly clear enough. The problem comes when we read the passages that deal with our everyday living. We struggle with ourselves as we apply the passage to our situation. At times we struggle because it is not immediately clear what the verse says and at other times it is because what it says goes against what we want to do. We struggle because it's difficult for us to change.

Whatever the case, it is good to sit with a friend we have confidence in and discuss the situation. Charlie and I spent almost every waking moment over the last week engaged in such activity. We also took time for humor. Laughter rang out from our home from daylight until bedtime each day. The result was that after five days Charlie and Olive left to return home but, what they left behind (besides his phone charger and Yeti cup) were two people feeling very relaxed, refreshed, and recharged.

All too often, we fail to see and acknowledge the value of friends. Take time today to reach out and let those friends, who add value to your life, know just how much of an impact they have had in your life. Then return the favor.

“and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.” (James 2:23, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott