

October 24, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in

you. Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!” (Psalm 39:6–8, ESV)

From time to time, I browse the internet looking for ideas to jog my mind into gear and most of the time it doesn't work. Then I read two or three dozen news articles as I look for ideas and still can't spark my thoughts. Then I find myself looking with great interest at some used articles for sale. But thankfully good judgment often kicks in and I start asking myself the same old questions. “Do I really need this?” Most of the time the answer is, NO! But if it does get past that first stage I ask, “How much will I really use this?” Again, the answer most often is “not much.” If I had lived this long without it, I probably fudged when I answered the first question. I have one last question to answer, “Where will I store it?” Having been married for more than fifty years, we are running out of room.

The internet has made it easy for people to overspend and we wind up with a house full of possessions that all too often we don't remember when, where, or why we bought them. I can't count the times I have gone to my shop and sorted through boxes with the intent of cleaning things out and making a little more

room. Normally what I wind up with is a tabletop covered with things that I haven't seen in several years. Then I start to put things away and think to myself “Now I'll know exactly where this is the next time that I need it.” Sometimes I do get lucky and find what I'm looking for before total frustration sets in. But often, when I need it again, I feel like a child playing Hide & Seek. I know the item is in my shop, but it never seems to be where I remember placing it.

If I had less stuff rather than more I would be in a place of greater security and contentment. Greater security because my bank account would be better able to handle the unexpected events that come along in our everyday life. Greater contentment because I would not have so much to lose in a catastrophic loss. It would be so much easier to replace the necessary and be back to normal. That brings peace. Peace is knowing that we have done all we can to prepare for what the future may hold rather than living moment to moment and always on the ragged edge.

Our relationship with God can be like the long-lost item we purchased placed on shelves so long ago. Have we placed that relationship on the shelf and walked away from it only to wonder what happened to it because we failed to pay attention to it?

“But godliness with contentment is great gain,” (1 Timothy 6:6, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott