

July 17, 2022

Scott's Thoughts



to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,” (Ephesians 4:22, ESV)

We like the modern conveniences in our lives and as

much as we like to think about the Good Old Days. I don't think we really want to go back, but yesterday we went back in time for two different events. The first event happened when I came to the house at noon, the A/C had stopped working. Back in the Good Old Days when I was little, the only places that had A/C were a few stores. Illinois in the summer gets as hot and humid as it does here.

Our house was an old house that had no insulation. The bedrooms for us children were upstairs, and the heat was so intense it was like crawling into the attic. Many nights we just laid in bed and perspired. I can remember nights when we took blankets and slept outside because of the heat. I don't want to go back to that way of living again but having gone to Ukraine several times in the summer I have been reminded of how oppressive the heat can be.

The other experience we had yesterday was making homemade ice cream. Our grandchildren had never seen the process and did not know what it was. We wanted them to know something about it, so we bought an ice-cream freezer and the ingredients, then proceeded to make ice cream. It was a lot different from the old days!

Sixty years ago, the freezer was a wooden tub. The power to churn the cream came from a hand crank. The older children or adults took turns turning the crank or sitting on the freezer to keep it steady. We continually added ice along with the salt to lower the temperature. Today of course, we just put all the parts together then plug it in and wait for it to quit. We might have to add a little more ice and salt, but the process is much easier.

Last night I thought of one more difference between now and sixty years ago. Back then we didn't buy ice in a ten- or twenty-pound bag. We went to the icehouse and bought a ten-pound block of ice. We then had to chip ice with an ice pick. The whole process was much more involved years ago. One thing that has not changed is the joy of seeing six children eat all the ice-cream they can hold.

Life is good! The A/C was repaired and by bedtime the house was comfortable enough to get a good night's sleep. The cleanup from making ice-cream was quick and easy. The paper bowls and plastic spoon were thrown in the trash. (In the Good Old Days, we had no dishwasher. The cleanup took a lot of work!) That is life! Two events side by side, one pleasant the other not so much.

How could we appreciate joy if we had never known sadness? How could we appreciate the blessing from God in our lives if we had never been without Him?

“and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott