

September 2, 2018

## Scott's Thoughts



“Harvey”, thankfully Ava and I missed this hurricane. This week I have seen many pictures on Facebook that were taken the day after the storm in Rockport, TX. Ava and I lived in Rockport for five and a

half years, so we still have many friends there. People we care about continue to struggle to recover from this great storm.

On August 27, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made land fall at Rockport, Texas. It was not a day those who were there will ever forget! It was the first category four storm to hit Texas since 1961. Sitting in Newkirk the warnings and reports from a Hurricane seem so distant, so far away. It's hard for us to process the impact that a hurricane has on an area, however, we are familiar with tornados. They are incredible storms of a different sort.

Those affected by “Harvey” had a lot of advanced warning that the storm was coming. Many did temporarily move to places where they would be safer. However, some chose to stay others had no means of leaving. There were eventually 106 deaths in the United States that were directly related to “Harvey.” This is a small but devastating number. It is small when compared to the number of people that were directly affected by the storm, devastating to the families who lost loved ones. Not everyone who left chose to return. Some want to return but, have yet been unable to do so. Some have nothing to return to, everything they owned was destroyed.

Many people ask two questions. 1. With advanced

warning why doesn't everyone leave? 2. Knowing the ever-present danger why do they come back?

Answering question one is easy. The same area has the potential to get hit every year but seldom happens more that once every many years. Texas had hurricane damage from 1961-2017 but it took 56 years for the next really devastating storm to hit. Most of the people effected were not alive in 1961. I have heard so many say, “I never leave. It's not as bad as the news makes it out.” This is true of many but it only takes one terrible storm to change your life forever.

Answering question two is understandable. “It is my home!” We live in a very mobile society. It is amazing that many people still live within a few miles of where they were born and raised. One of the things I enjoy about Newkirk is sitting at the bakery early of a morning and visiting with the “Old Men” gathered to drink coffee or tea. It is amazing what you can learn because they have lived in this one town for so many years. Their families, in a large part, are still living near them or within the county. This is home. Home is where we feel secure and know what to expect.

Yet, all this can be blown away by a storm in a moment. Building codes are good and storm shelters are great but they cannot protect anyone against the most important aspect of life - Eternity. Eternal security can be found only in God.

Let us know if we can help, and thanks for listening.

—Scott