

# Scott's Thoughts

August 20, 2023



*"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet." (Matthew 24:6, ESV)*

As a youth of 17, I enlisted in the Navy not because I had a desire to go to war, but because I wanted to do my part to serve my country. I also thought that if I wound up serving in combat then maybe just maybe my children could live in a world at peace.

Diplomats have worked for centuries to put an end to war, but we still have wars across the globe. There have been moments of peace in this world, but they are few and far between. War has been part of history since the beginning. The first battle fought was between man and Satan. Satan won that battle. Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden. All mankind has been paying the price for that loss ever since.

The war in Ukraine is very important to me. I have hundreds of friends in Ukraine and many of them are also my brothers and sisters in Christ. I do my best to stay in touch with them during this time. With all the destruction that is going on, it is amazing that we can still use e-mail and other electronic methods to stay in touch with each other. I am part of a group that meets on Zoom every Wednesday morning for an hour to discuss the work of the Church in Ukraine. We talk about their present needs, and there are many. We help

with humanitarian aid for any refugees of the war that can get to one of our aid centers. The problem is that we often run out of supplies before we can help everyone, and it breaks our hearts when special needs come up that are beyond our ability to meet.

If the war would end today, the need would not disappear overnight. It will take years to raise the funds to help people to be able to go back to their homes and rebuild. A number of the church buildings have also suffered damage and those structures will need repair as well. We are already in the planning stages to be able to send construction teams to Ukraine following the end of the war. We will also be sending teaching teams and counselors to help them readjust to a normal life.

When will this war end? We have hope of it being soon but only God knows for certain when it will cease. We can continue to plan, contribute, but most of all pray that God will bring peace to this country that has become so dear to many of us.

*"A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:8, ESV)*

Thanks for listening and keep on shining. —Scott