

Scott's Thoughts

February 16, 2025



"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live," (Deuteronomy 30:19, ESV)

In all the years I have lived in Oklahoma, 14 in total, this has been the worst winter I can remember. We have had bitter cold days and nights and more snow than I have come to expect in Oklahoma. After living for almost twenty years on the Gulf Coast, anything below the freezing point of water is too cold for me. But God doesn't check with me before He sets the weather patterns into effect. However, He does expect me to do the best I can with what He provides.

Winters with the wild swings like we have been having results in no definite pattern. That means that some days I work from home getting things organized for our Sunday and Wednesday services. Other days it means I can get out and visit with those of our congregation who are shut in and spend most of their days alone.

Each of us has our own best operating temperature. Mine happens to be somewhere around 80 degrees or even a little warmer. I'm looking forward to the days getting a little longer and warmer.

One of the things I really miss during the winter is working in my shop when the temperature is too cold to work comfortably because there's no heat in the shop. I realize I could spend a little money and install some form of heat, but it seems like a large expense just to have heat for a few hours each month. Then I'm

sure I would begin to think about adding A/C for the summer. But it would be the same thing, a big expense for not much return. We do this with every decision we have in life. We weigh the pros and cons and then act on what we think is in our best interest. That sounds good but in reality it normally depends on whether we have enough money to do it. Sometimes we get what we want even when we know it will overload us in the future.

When it comes to making seemingly good choices, Abraham's nephew Lot comes to mind. When it became evident they needed to put some distance between their herds, Abraham told Lot to take his pick of the land and he could have it and Abraham would take what was left. Lot took the fertile, well-watered land, where it would be easy for his herds to grow. The problem was, that in time, it cost Lot his wife and put his daughters in great danger. I wonder if he had the chance to go back to the day of his choosing, would he do it over? Knowing the future, how would he choose?

What will we chase after in our lives today? Will we choose what will help us make it to eternity with God, or will what we choose put ourselves and our children at risk of eternal separation from God?

"Let us choose what is right; let us know among ourselves what is good." (Job 34:4, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott