

Scott's Thoughts

January 25, 2026



“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” (Psalm 51:7, ESV)

Just the other day I commented to someone about how mild our winter has been, well that left in a hurry on Friday (January 23). As we left the house on Friday morning, the temperature was -2 degrees. When we arrived in Wichita, the temperature was not any better. We were there for about four hours. Even though it seemed even colder on the trip home, we stopped to fill the gas tank before coming home, just to be on the safe side. It started snowing overnight and is continuing to come down as I write this.

I remember we had this kind of winter when I was growing up in Illinois. As a child I looked forward to the days when everything was shut down and there was too much snow to go to school. It meant we had two or three days to play in the snow before the snowplows would be able to clear enough country roads for the buses to run. We loved to go on a hillside with our sleds, slide down, then drag the sled back to the top just to do it over again. It did not slow down the sleds in the least.

As I look out the window today, I see a blanket of pure white snow. Everything is covered and it just looks so peaceful, but there is a silent killer lurking in the beauty of that scene. The real-feel temperature is a negative eight degrees right now. Exposure to that kind of cold for only a very short time can cause frostbite and is especially dangerous to infants. However, in

spite of the risk, many people will get in their car or truck to run an errand that could easily wait a day or so. Some of those will encounter an unplanned problem and will not have the proper emergency supplies in the vehicle for their emergency.

At times like these we can thank God for things like cell phones. I mean who would leave home without their phone in this day and age? We think at least a little about preparing for a journey in weather like this, but what about those days of clear skies and perfect temperatures? The truth is we know nothing about what the next moment will bring. We need to make sure our vehicles have a minimum of safety equipment at our fingertips and adjust that as the seasons change. Likewise, we need to prepare our spiritual lives for much the same reason. We do not know when tragedy will enter our lives. What if it is the end of our life? Have we made the proper preparation or are we leaving that strictly to chance?

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott