

Scott's Thoughts

January 1, 2023



“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle and come to their end without hope.” (Job 7:6, ESV)

It seems like I have just mastered writing “2022” when dating something and now we will have to remember to write “2023”.

Each year seems to pass more quickly than the previous one. I try to assess my accomplishments for that year to plan for the next. When I was a child, I knew what I had accomplished because I was promoted at the end of the school year. The years in the Navy provided promotions as the years passed so I could tell how I was doing. Changing from the Navy to the body shop put me into an apprenticeship program and I got pay raises as acknowledgment of my progress. Once I became a journeyman, my pay topped out, but I could measure my accomplishments as the areas of responsibility increased. Preaching is much harder to gauge.

It is hard to measure how effectively I’m doing this work. I guess if the attendance grew by huge numbers that would be a metric to measure by but sadly our numbers are not causing us to have to look for a larger facility. In fact, we still have more than ample room for all of us. I could measure my effectiveness when a child comes to me at the end of service and gives me a hug; or when I’m in a store, a family comes in, and the children run to me when they see me. It could be when I have the chance to sit at someone’s kitchen table and study the Bible with them to help them discover for themselves the message God has for them. The hardest

metric for me personally is “Am I a better servant of God” at the end of this year than I was the last?

In the passage above Job was in the depths of despair and it seemed to him that nothing would ever be right in his life again. I am like Job in that I may have trouble from time to time realizing the blessings in my life. However, unlike Job, I am not in that condition. I am blessed! I get to work with some of the finest people in our community. My wife takes wonderful care of me, and my children show continual love for me. I’m thankful for all the experiences God has allowed to come into my life. I am like Job in that as I grow older my days seem to pass with increasing speed. An hour can pass in a moment, a day in a flash and a year when it is over leaves me wondering where it went and what I did with it.

Sometimes it seems like God is taking forever. Then, in only an instant, He chooses to reveal what He has planned all along. I’m glad He has allowed me to be part of your lives here in Newkirk and I wish all a Happy New Year!

“Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.” (Matthew 9:22, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott