

Scott's Thoughts

December 29, 2024



“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.” (Exodus 12:2, ESV)

I am thankful for the Christmas season that just passed. I spoke with my sisters and a nephew on the phone. They all live within a few miles of each other in the area where Ava and I grew up. If there is anything negative about living in Newkirk for us, it is the distance from here to our blood relatives. Ava and I were especially blessed to have all three of our daughters, a Son-in-law, a boyfriend, two grandchildren, and three dogs visit us for a week. Yes, it required some adaptation of the arrangement of the house and our routine, but it was a wonderful time! It had been three years since we had all been together in one place. It was sad to see them all depart within a three-hour period. Now that Christmas is past, we celebrate the New Year 2025. Why do we celebrate the first day of each year? Why do we celebrate in the fashion that we do? For most of us we follow traditions that have been handed down to us. For many it is not the New Year, but the New Year's Eve celebration that is looked forward to. At several places where Ava and I have lived, we celebrated with the members on New Years Eve at the church building and prayed that God would protect us in the coming year. But due to the age of our congregation here in Newkirk we don't practice that as a congregation. However, many of us do stay up until midnight praying on our own.

I am hopeful for the new year. I am hopeful for several things: One of the major items that I think of

every day is the war in Ukraine. We are getting close to the third anniversary of the open hostilities by Russia against Ukraine. I say open because parts of Ukraine have been under attack since 2014. The sheer numbers of people who have relocated staggers the imagination. Most of those who have relocated yearn to be able to return to their homes even knowing that there is a high probability that their homes are no longer in a livable condition. As an American citizen I understand the thought that many do not want our government to spend billions of taxpayer dollars in support of Ukraine. But as one of many who has spent more than thirty years involved in the spiritual lives of many Ukrainians, it pains me to see this country torn apart by greedy individuals on the world stage.

I am hopeful that our country will become less defined by what political party we belong to and more about how we focus on the well-being of our neighbors, both physically and spiritually. We all have problems. Each of us can reach out to help someone with a different problem than we have. Life is so much more satisfying when we are giving than when we are taking.

2025 is upon us what are we going to do with it?

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;” (Psalm 45:6, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott