
DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING ~ 21-FEB-23

Welcome to “the cowboy church’s” day of prayer and fasting. I trust that as you engage with the LORD in this way that you will grow deeper in your relationship with Him. *If you are new to our “fasting and prayer” day, there is some introductory material included on the last page that you may find helpful.*

2022-23 – A “YEAR” IN GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER

As we continue to journey through this hear in the House of Prayer, I would like to add a new direction to our prayer and fasting times. One of the biggest challenges we face in church culture today is remembering and applying what we have heard in a church service. So, at least for the next few months (perhaps longer), I would like to help us look back at what we have heard and learned in our Friday night services. Our “Scripture Meditation” section will now focus on asking the Lord for how He wants to see His Scriptures applied in our personal lives. This is not simply a rehashing of the message. No. Rather, it is an “Invitation to Application.” As James says in his letter,

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.”

James 1:25 (NIV)

INVITATION TO APPLICATION ~ ROMANS 1:1-2:4

Division was deep in the church at Rome when Paul wrote this letter. That sets the scene for a universal salvation that is effective for both sides of the conflict. There is much “theology” in the book of Romans, but it is always theology with a view to living it. As we look through and contemplate the passages, I would like to give you one simple question to ask the Lord in each section from Scripture that we look at today.

This Photo by Unknown *“Lord, what does this look like in my life today?”*

Perhaps you will feel more drawn to one particular set of thoughts more than the others. Focus in on those. Remember, it is about how the Lord would like to see these thoughts and ideas implemented in your life – not how you or anyone else wants to see them acted on.

(If this ends up raising more questions or you have questions that you can't seem to answer, I would like to encourage you to feel free to chat with me about those questions. Give me a call, send me an email, or chat with me on a Friday evening after church. I would love to interact with you. It doesn't have to be me either. If you know a mature Christian you trust and respect, feel free to interact with them also.)

Psalm 139:23-24 (NASB) gives us good model to follow as we pray and contemplate application of the Lord's Word in this way.

*Search me, O God and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

Romans 1:1-7

- This goes back into early January, but I think it is good to take a quick look at the beginning. We focussed in on two particular phrases in verses 6 & 7 (NIV), "...called to belong to Jesus Christ." and "...called to be His holy people". We talked about belonging to God is the way one betrothed person belongs to the other. We "belong" to Jesus as His future Bride. We spoke of being "spoken for" by Jesus and God asking us, "Would you be Mine?"
 - Lord, what does this look like in regular, daily life – (what does this mean about my value, self-image, behavioural choices, etc.)?

Romans 1:8-17

- In this section we looked at three different aspects of what it means to "belong" to another or "to be spoken for" by another. We looked at ownership (Paul, a bondservant), obligations (Paul... called as an apostle), and the message (Paul... set apart for the gospel of God). In

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each area we saw that, even in our lives today, the call of God on our lives affects these areas in our thoughts, speech, and actions. We are no longer our own master with the freedom to choose whatever form of lifestyle we want. We do belong to Another.

- Lord, what does this look like in my life today?

Romans 1:18-2:4

- This past Friday we looked at a long list of sinful lifestyle choices (1:18-32) that pretty much includes all of us at one point or another. We could easily see a perfect image of the culture of our world around us. Then Paul lowered the boom! He continued in 2:1-4 and made several statements on “us being no better,” and, “who or what gives us the right to judge...” OUCH!
 - Lord, what does this look like in my life today?
 - Are there people I love to sit in judgment over? Am I one who thinks they are past such sins and evil – recheck the list, especially from vv 28-31. What do I think of the statement Paul makes, “...the kindness of God leads you to repentance.” Again, “Lord, what does this look like in my life today?”

PRAYER CONCERNS

There is much in this world that we can and should be remembering before the Lord. Here are some suggestions based on some of the situations and events that we see around us in our world. If the Lord lays other events, situations, etc. on your heart, I encourage you to lift them up to Him.

International:

- Conflict Zones
 - The war in Ukraine reaches it’s one year anniversary this Friday. Please continue to pray for a resolution that would see God’s purposes accomplished.
 - Other conflict areas such as ongoing conflict in African countries and the Middle East
- Turkey, Syria, New Zealand and other areas affected by natural disasters.
- Pray for the salvation of world leaders.
- World Churches

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National:

- Salvation for all those involved in National politics and policy creation.
- May God be seen once again in our Country.
- May the Lord be seen clearly in the churches across our country.

Provincial:

- Provincial leadership concerns.
- The salvation of our Provincial leaders.
- That our government's policies would somehow reflect God's glory and His will.
- That the churches of this province would be consumed with a passion for knowing God. That He would be seen in the policies and practices of each church and denomination.

Local & Personal:

- God's continued blessing and guidance in each area of ministry
 - The Word, music, fellowship, and prayer.
 - Continued blessing of the finances for His ministry here.
- Those in our church, and others you may know, who are struggling with physical and/or mental health issues.
- Pray any other requests you may have.

May the Lord continue to guide you as you seek to put His words into practice in your daily life.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NASB)

Thanks for praying with us.

Pastor Orban 🙏

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THOUGHTS AND TIPS CONCERNING FASTING

Often, we approach fasting as a way of showing God how serious we are about the things we are asking from Him. We think that because we are giving up food, time, etc. that He will pay closer attention to us and our requests. Not True. Fasting is not a means of manipulating God to give us what we ask for. Really, it isn't even about asking for things in prayer. It is about sitting with God, in His divine presence, and allowing Him to lead and guide our time. It is a time for praise and worship, for scripture meditation and for prayer according to His desires and His will. Through the time of fasting, our prayer focus should be one of aligning ourselves with the will of God and deepening our relationship with Him. In this way, He can lead us into His thoughts, attitudes, and possible action plans in our daily and community (church) life.

Here are a couple of articles that may give added information along with some practical tips for fasting. I may not agree with everything on these sites but there is a wealth of practical information that can be helpful when you add fasting to your life regularly.

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/personal-guide-to-fasting.html>

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/7-steps-to-fasting.2.html>

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