
AN AFTERNOON WITH THE AUTHOR – 20-SEP-23

Welcome to the cowboy church's Afternoon of Reflection and Prayer. This time is designed as a place for you to have some quiet and intimate conversation with God, the creator and the One who loves you beyond our ability to grasp.

2023-24 CAPTIVATED BY THE AUTHOR

With the coming of September, comes a new ministry year (September-May) for us here at "the cowboy church". This year is all about God. It is about finding Him in the pages of scriptures and allowing Him to capture my entire life. It's not enough to find cool things to think about or instructions to follow. It needs to be about God walking my life with me and me being aware of His presence, in a word - RELATIONSHIP. With that in mind, I hope these afternoons of reflection and prayer will (1) encourage you in your encounters with the Lord and (2) deepen your relationship with Him. May you find encouragement and challenge in these afternoons - focused on time spent in the Lord's presence.

REFLECTION

The theme for this month's reflection is experiencing the deep and endless love of God for you, even though your life has many places of failings and shortcomings. There will be two different passages to sit in and reflect on, along with some questions to consider. As you sit with God in these passages, I would encourage you to read the passage a few times. Look for any particular words or phrases that seem to "leap off the page". Ask the Lord what the importance of those words and/or phrases are. What is the Lord trying to "chat with you" about. Then feel free to respond with the questions, comments etc. that the words and/or phrases bring.

Opening Prayer suggestions

Something to pray as you begin this time: ask God to give you the gifts of (1) a deeper awareness of how He is near to you, and (2) for a deeper trust in His personal care for you.

Psalm 139:1-18

- How does God gaze upon me?
- How does the Psalmist (David) perceive this (is this something he welcomes and looks forward to or something he dreads and tries to avoid)?
- How open am I to receiving this level of intimate attention from God?

Isaiah 43:1-7

- Are there any particular words or images that move you? Spend time thinking about them and what they could mean. Ask the Lord for His understanding.
Remember, this is a time for conversation between you and your loving Father.
- Who am I to God?
- According to this passage, how do I look in God's eyes and perspective?
- How comfortable am I with this kind of attention from God?

PRAYER TIME

- What is the response that God is asking of me? Is He wanting:
 - An attitude correction?
 - Me to accept a truth that I have has previously been unknown, unbelieved, or resisted?
 - An action or path of actions?
 - Or something else?...
- Spend some time in simple adoration of God, for all that He is, how He loves you, and all that He has done and wants to do for you and in you.
- At this point in time feel free to bring to God all those things that “are bugging you” or are “on your heart”. In a response to His love and care, bring to Him those things that are weighing you down. Don’t forget to give God an opportunity to respond. Remember, this is a conversation with God.

May the LORD show Himself to you so that you come to *know* Him in an even deeper and more personal way. May you find comfort and delight in His ever-loving and ever-vigilant gaze.

Thanks for praying with us.

Pastor Orban