

Home, Home on God's Range

May 7, 2023

**God not only owns all the
ranges of the world...God
is to be at the center of
our world...yours and
mine.**

To live a God centered life is not only the wisest way to live, but it is also simply the way we were created to live.

**The compass of your soul
points to Heaven.**

Let's consider some other helps too for our everyday riding on God's Range. One has to do with perspective.

As followers of God, we are called to build up our ability to focus and concentrate on the things in life that are really important.

Joshua 1:8 NASU

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it;

Joshua 1:8 NASU

for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

**The more we focus on
God's words and truths,
the more equipped we are
to ride this ride of life, as
well as succeed in
becoming who God
created us to be...**

**which is the greatest
success in life
anyway...becoming more
and more the person God
created you to be.**

Being a child of God does not make us exempt from hardship or suffering. It's important for us to understand that.

**Remember what it was
like for Mary and Joseph
and Jesus and the
Apostles?**

**But God can make the
inevitable pains in this life
become everlasting
rewards in the afterlife, as
well as sometimes in this
life...**

**if we seek to honor God in
spite of the hardships,
and seek to bless others
in spite of our burdens.**

**Remember, we don't get
to choose all the battles
we must fight...only 'how'
we fight them.**

Romans 8:18 NASU

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

**Cactuses can be
deceiving. They can have
a place in nature around
us, and that's fine. But
they're not supposed to
grow in our nature within
us.**

**We mean like the
cactuses of rude habits, or
personal prejudices, or
slanderos words, or
judgmental thoughts, and
so on.**

These things stick and stab others around us, and even bring harm to ourselves, and to the detriment of everything that God is trying to do in and through our lives in service to others.

God didn't call us to 'good wanderings' in life...rather He called us to 'good works' in life.

**Thankfully, we are saved
by Christ's works for us,
but we are sanctified
through our works for
Christ.**

For Cowboys, the Golden Rule of 'do unto others what you would have them do unto you' was their key to life.

Matthew 7:12 NLT

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."

Proverbs 31:8-9 NLT

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."

And looking out for one another implies also looking to each other...in serving the Lord together and encouraging one another and working life out together.

“Don’t forget, as some have the habit of doin’; that it’s important to sit around the campfire and share each other’s company –

Give encouragement and spur each other on to good deeds – more and more as you see the Day comin' up on us fast.”

Cowboy version:

Psalm 133:1-2

***"What an amazin' thing it is
when families can get along
together. This unity is like a
brisket rub made together of
individual spices in equal
measure..."***

Psalm 133:1-2

***when brought together, is holy
and pleasin' to God."***

**Studies have found that
grit is more essential to
long term success than
talent or IQ.**

**Learning how to cope
with life's inevitable
problems is how you
develop grit in the first
place.**

Notice Romans 5:3-5

Romans 5:3-5 NASU

***"And not only this, but we also
exult in our tribulations,
knowing that tribulation brings
about **perseverance**; and
perseverance, proven
character;***

Romans 5:3-5 NASU

***and proven character, hope;
and hope does not disappoint,***

Romans 5:3-5 NASU

***because the love of God has
been poured out within our
hearts through the Holy Spirit
who was given to us.”***

Each of these powerful virtues are like building blocks, with each one setting up a foundation for the building of the next one.

Jesus clearly told us that in this world we will have tribulations, because this world is a trouble filled world...but to be of good courage, for He has overcome this world.

And so God has made it so that if His children have to go through this world of troubles before we get to His world, He's going to make troubles have to produce something good for His children.

**Out of bad, something
good is going to be built
for His children.**

**Over and on top of
troubles you build
perseverance. And over
and on top of
perseverance you can
then build proven
character.**

And over and on top of proven character you can build hope. And hope then blossoms out in the experience of the love of God pouring out in us through the Holy Spirit.

Know that God is going to be with you every step of the trail of your life. And you don't need to worry about what's going to be on that trail because our God has already overcome whatever it is...

**and He will help you
overcome it too. And not
only overcome it, but He
will reward us for even
having to tussle or
wrestle with any and all of
it.**

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