

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

**8771 FM 35**

**Union Valley/Royse City, TX**

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

## **October 16, 2016 – Getting it Right the First Time**

Feeding time at the Cross B Ranch...I have two new horses and the “boss” horse is away for a while... The rule is, cows to the left and horses to the right (just like on judgement day). The new ones have to learn the system. My job is to stand in the gate and make sure everyone is thinking straight (this is the intersection, and it can be a bit dangerous at times – there’s usually a stick involved)!

I accomplish by setting pattern and doing the same thing every day. If you get cows in the stall with a horse, you end up with broken gates. If you get a horse in the cow lot, you get knocked over feeders and nobody gets to eat!

Life is the same way, things are usually harder the second time around.

What about catching wild thoughts...

**II Corinthians 10:15 We demolish arguments and every pretension (obstacle) that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

Have you ever asked yourself the question, “What was I thinking?” 0 down and no payments for 4 years??? Everybody said don’t date him!!! My mom said, don’t take that job!!!!

Everybody has asked that question, but very few take the time necessary to answer it!

**If you keep thinking the way you’ve always thought, you will keep doing what you’ve always done!**

**Romans 12 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, (written to Christians) in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.**

***2 Do not conform*** (to shape yourself) ***to the pattern*** (something that exists before you get there) ***of this world*** (it takes very little effort to conform, things that just come naturally is the pattern of this world).

Common patterns that affect our thinking...

TV-Media...it gives us a distorted view of life, family, morality and religion. The average American spends 6 hours a day watching TV, on their phones, etc.

God is saying “why would you let anyone or anything shape you except me?

***but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***

Illustrations:

I want to paint my horse trailer. People who know tell me that I have to sand off the old paint before I put on the new, cause new paint on the old will eventually just peel off. I have not painted it yet because this will take TIME!

Horses ... a good trainer takes the time to transform a horse by renewing his mind. The pattern of the horse's world is (something scares me, RUN real fast in the opposite direction). A transformed horse gets as close to a person as he can for safety. And if you try to teach a horse something new before you remove the old way of thinking first, eventually the new will peel off with the old.

People are the same. We commit to living for Christ and get new habits, we go to church and get new friends but we never took the TIME to get rid of the old.

Common thoughts that need renewing

1. If I find the right person, everything will be alright. WRONG! That last guy was an idiot but if I can just find the right one, a renewed mind takes off the old by saying, “What was it about me that made me choose an idiot in the first place!” “If I become the right person, everything will be alright”...it is impossible to FIND the right person if you have not BECOME the right person.
2. My situation is different. Working for the doctor, every situation is pretty much the same. This assumption is how you avoid wise advice. Most counselors will tell you there are about 5 situations...
3. I know it's not right but it makes me happy and God wants me to be happy.
4. If only I had \_\_\_\_\_ then I would be satisfied. Do you know anybody with (1) tattoo. No appetite in every fully and finally satisfied. Steak was great now, I'm good forever. Don't fool yourself into thinking once you \_\_\_\_\_ you will be satisfied. If I could only live in, or drive \_\_\_\_\_.

5. I owe is better than I want. We either sit around and want things or sit around and owe money for things. “It is better to want than to owe” ... there is tension in you when you want and when you owe.
6. My secret is safe with me. Secrets are always bad, they are unhealthy. Taking a secret in a relationship makes an unhealthy threesome, somebody has to go.

***Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*** His will is centered on how you were designed.

God has a good, positive effect on your life.

Pleasing – and you will like it.

Perfect will for your life ... his will is centered on how you were designed.

First step in renewing your mind is committing your life to Christ.