

“MANY ARE THE PLANS”

As we reflect upon 2016, here we are already into the month of June. It seems very true that the older you get the faster that time seems to go by. It just seems like yesterday that I was sitting in a classroom as a 13 year old boy. Time seemed to be standings till as I waiting for the bell to ring so that I could head home, get working, get my chores done and get something worthwhile accomplished. Maybe you can easily relate to how I felt.

It is true that we as livestock people are born with the inward gift to shepherd and care for our stock and work the soil. It's a passion, a love, a natural instinct from above that we were all born with. Farmers and ranchers are achievers with their plates full of many different responsibilities that we love to plan for and fulfill. As 2016 started you had visions, dreams and plans that you had set in place on your calendar and in your mind to take your program forward. Most of all of you have completed your calving season, flushed your donor cows, placed embryos and AI-ed your cows. Your fences are repaired and the cows are enjoying the lush green grass and the herd bulls have been turned out. The calves are growing and you have decided which ones are your top and favorite ones over all.

Your fields have been worked, seed determined and crops planted. Your corn is starting to really take off and beans are finally starting to get that look to them that says this could be a very good year! Now you are in the hay fields cutting and putting up the first crop of hay that will help feed your cows through the winter months. For those of who take to the show road your show animals have been clipped, are being washed and rinsed and tied in front of the show fans. Yes, you have made many plans and many of those plans have already been completed. At the end of every hard days work you are privileged to see a lot of progress and accomplishments achieved for the many plans that you have made. With all of this comes great pleasure and fulfillment to your heart and mind.

Yet, you know that 7 months still lie ahead and there are still many of your plans that yet need to be handled and fulfilled. Indeed, “MANY ARE THE PLANS” THAT WE HAVE ALL MADE.” With this idea of “many plans” that we make and hope to see accomplished during 2016 and also during our lifetime we must never forget what God's Word tells us about how to keep our “many plans” in right perspective to His plans, to this life and into the next.

In doing so, I have a few favors to ask of you. First and foremost always include God, your creator and sustainer in your plans and give them to Him. Second, ask God to give you wisdom and speak to you regarding His plans and ways and if they interact into yours. Third, obey what He speaks by His Holy Spirit to your heart to do. I promise, that if you do these simple steps, you will never be sorry for including God almighty, His son Jesus and Christ and the Holy Spirit in your many plans and for following His Plans for your life, your family, farm and ranch! This is the way of success! Not only for this life but for the life to come! This is what brings true pleasure and joy to our hearts!

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”

James 4:13-15 “Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen

tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

A prayer: Father God I desire to include you in all my plans, the plans for my life, for my family, for my farm and my ranch. I desire for you God to be glorified in my life and for your plans to take precedence over mine. I therefore Father God give you my plans and ask that You through your son Jesus Christ and the power of your Holy Spirit give me wisdom that I need, to speak into my heart your plans and to help me to obey them. It's in your name Jesus Christ name I pray, amen.

In Christ's love

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