

## *Theme for 2018*

# **WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD & WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

*“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)*



## ***This Week’s Thought – June 3, 2018***

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*“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)*

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We spend so much of our lives struggling with big questions of identity and purpose. “What am I meant to do with my life?” “Where does God want me to invest my time and energy?” In some ways, these questions and many others like them, can stay with us for decades, as life has a way of always changing and evolving, inviting us deeper and deeper into life with God and others. Yet, the Scriptures give us a window into what is meant to be steady and constant in our lives.

In Ephesians 2, Paul speaks to these questions of core identity, saying “*we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works.*” To be “*created in Christ Jesus*” is to be made people of substance. To be created in Christ is to live life to the fullest. It is to know the answers to the deepest questions of purpose and identity.

When we find our new life in Christ, we are set free to do the work He gives us to do, giving ourselves to what is good and true. It is participation in the rhythms of His Kingdom that He has always desired for His creation. It is a way of life prepared beforehand, the way of ultimate peace and goodness that we are invited to join Him in living.

*“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1)*

Good works are meant to flow forth from a life that rests secure in the love of God. The love of God shown in Jesus Christ recreates us and makes us whole. It shows us the purpose for which He created us and sets us free to live good lives for the sake of others. When we are anxious and fearful, it reminds us of our core identity, that we are known and loved by God, and in His kingdom we are kept safe and secure.

**Application:** What big questions of identity, purpose and direction are you wrestling with today? How can you take a step towards trust in God’s love and care for you?

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week:** “Seek My Face, and you will find all that you have longed for. The deepest yearnings of your heart are intimacy with Me. I know because I designed you to desire Me. Do not be afraid to be different from other people. The path I called you to travel is exquisitely right for you. The more closely you follow My leading, the more fully I can develop your gifts. Relinquish your desire to please other people, and follow Me wholeheartedly. I will enable you to bless others, and shine brightly in this dark world.” (Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 34:5; Philippians 2:15)

*“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)*

Yours in Christ, Pastor King