

Theme for 2020

I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!

‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”

Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)



This Week’s Thought – January 26, 2020

“Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:9-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

Who are you? You are a beloved child of God saved by the grace of God, to do the works of God He planned for you a long time ago. When you look in the mirror and voices of condemnation and shame try to tear you down—see instead how Christ has lifted you up. When you reflect on the good things you have, bow your heart in gratitude for God’s gifts He has given you to carry out His plan to help and serve others. **Who are you?** You are God’s masterpiece—loved to love others. Salvation is the start of a lifelong process of growing more like Jesus. **You are His!**

Paul writes from firsthand experience. When he was a new convert, skeptics questioned the validity of his salvation experience, but over time wisdom was proven right by the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s fruit in his heart. God took the messy canvas of a life that had been anti-Christ and transformed him to become more and more like Christ. The Lord knew long ago that the profile of Paul would be the type of person who would eventually rock the world for Jesus.

“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”
(Philippians 2:12-13, NLT)

Do you feel unsure and alone? If so, solitude is the solution to your loneliness. A noisy world only compounds your feelings of fear and living of the fringes of faith. In stillness, quiet your soul, feel the warm embrace and love of the Father, and you will have the courage to carry on. Those loved well in the secret place of the sweet Holy Spirit’s strength have the confidence to publicly confess Christ and be vulnerable with His community of followers. Just as the unsure disciples offered the meager fish and loaves—take what you have, break it and give it to God.

Christ has commissioned your portrait of His love; but you are required to sit still in front of the eternal artist. Observe Him, gently brush the multi-colors of His grace across the canvas of your faith. Yes, there is a time to sit in quiet trust and a time to get up and serve in the Spirit’s strength. Do both and you will experience God in deeper intimacy and deeds done in His name. **Who are you? You are a masterpiece on display, reflecting the genius of your Creator’s love lived out!**

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” (Ephesians 5:1, NLT).

“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!”

Application: Where can you find a secret place each day to receive the Father’s love? Who needs your love today to help them get through the day? Trust God to grow you more like Christ in your character, motivated by love to help, serve and love others.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: **“Think of all it means to have Me as your Shepherd: My full-time job is watching over you, taking care of you. When danger threatens, I never abandon you—I have even gone so far as to lay down My Life for you. I, the Good Shepherd, know My sheep and My sheep know Me—just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father.”** (Psalm 23:1-2; Isaiah 54:10; John 10:14-15)

“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