First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 May 10, 2020

## 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 – May 10, 2020 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves." Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

"We're ALL in this TOGETHER." There are so many uncertainties for humanity right now. Many are unsure how the future will unfold. What will happen to our jobs, paychecks, retirement funds, health, and the health of our neighbors, family, and friends? We can't see what will happen with the world's economy, and the future of our freedoms.

Almost the entire world is shut down. Schools have closed. Businesses are losing money. The stock market is volatile—and all of it can be unsettling because no one knows what's ahead. The President doesn't know. The Senators and Governors don't know. The Health Officials don't know. The CDC doesn't know. The WHO doesn't know. No one knows.

So, because you don't know what will happen in the future, perhaps you feel afraid, your head spinning with worry. Are my loved ones going to get sick? Will I become ill? Am I going to lose my job (if you haven't already)? Will I have enough money to live on until I get back to work?

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 2 May 10, 2020

This is understandable because before, we all made plans. In fact, we were expert planners. You may have planned vacations, your future, meetings with friends, retirement, education, and what you would do for your next family gathering. You planned and planned as if your days were in your control. But none of us have ever really been in control.

Perhaps, if Jesus stood before you today, He would say:

"My hand has never lifted from the people I created. My care has never ended or been thwarted. I hold the entire world in My hands and that will never change. You are small, but I am mighty. You lack the ability to see the future. I see it clearly and am sovereign over it. You don't know what's around the corner. I see every day for every person. In fact, I created each day! You fear that you will not have enough. All you have ever had has come from My hand.

It's no different . . . your life before this trouble and your life now. I have always been caring for you and I have always been LORD. But perhaps now you see that it's never been you. You have never been your own god—and you have never been in control. You just thought you were. All you have and all you will ever have has come from My hand. Remember, I love you. I will never leave you. I am your faithful Father."

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

"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). <u>I AM WHAT 'YOU'SEE!</u>"

**Application:** Stop and take five minutes to reflect on the ways that God has rescued you, provided for you, cared for you, and has never left you. He has been faithful in the past; He will be faithful now.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Lord, thank You so much that You are in control and You are loving and powerful. You aren't a God who is far off and uncaring. You aren't a God who is powerful and mean. You are a God who cares for His children including ME, and I know that I will never be out of Your hand. You are MY refuge and strength, an ever-present help in the time of trouble. Halleluiah! This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King