

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 – October 11, 2020

“Don’t put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the LORD their God. He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners.” Psalm 146:3-7 (NLT)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” As I have said many times over the past weeks and months, especially amid this pandemic we continue to be in and face, these unprecedented times expose our deepest insecurities. They shine a spotlight on our vulnerabilities, at times making them the only things we can see. Before this pandemic, you may have had strained relationships with your parents, spouse, siblings, or children, yet now those hairline relational fractures are breaking apart, threatening to sever the bonds of love that tie you together. You may have known your financial safety net was not what it should be, yet that abstract knowledge is now painfully being experienced through the loss of a job or reduced income. Even within your own heart and soul, you find yourself encountering new forms of brokenness within, anger that you didn’t know was there, a need for control that rears its ugly head, or a weary cynicism that has taken root and settled in.

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In light of this present moment, I am increasingly aware of our inability to resolve these challenges, not to mention the countless more that I haven’t named. We cannot simply snap our fingers and return to simpler days. The problems are too complex, the challenge too severe and so we must look outside ourselves for hope and a way forward.

When I read/listen to the news, this is exactly what our country is doing at this moment. We desperately look to the government, or corporations, or charities for solutions, hoping someone will have an answer, a way to see us through this impossible situation we find ourselves in. Yet I am convinced there is a very real threat, even for us within the family of God, to misplace our trust.

As the psalmist reminds us, “*Don’t put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there.*” (Psalm 146:3) Apparently, this impulse to trust in the wrong people has been around for a long time; and misguided trust is not our only problem, it is also misguided hope! If our hope is simply for economic security or prosperity, then “powerful people” may be of some use. If a pandemic is our greatest concern, then looking to health care experts makes a great deal of sense.

Yet in this season, whatever the season is for you, the psalmist helpfully reminds us of the temporal nature of these hopes. ‘Princes’ or ‘Powerful Leaders’, however wise or trusted they may be, will see their plans perish as their breath departs from them. If our hope is for something truly eternal, we must place those hopes in the hands of something, or someone, greater than death itself!

This scripture directly links happiness to joy or hope, depending on your translation. If we hope correctly, we will be truly joyful. So today, place your hope in the One who overcame death itself, Jesus Christ our Lord, and trust that He will bring you unspeakable joy and happiness as you place your trust in Him.

“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 have you misplaced your hope in this season of uncertainty?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, I trust You to make injustices right, and use me in the meantime to model grace, love and forgiveness. When I have questions or fears, let me turn to You. When I am weak, let me seek Your strength. When I am discouraged, Father, keep me mindful of Your love and Your grace. In all things, let me seek Your will and Your way. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King