First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 June 21, 2020

## Theme for 2020 <u>I AM WHAT 'YOU' SEE!</u>

## '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 – June 21, 2020 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"Bring about Your kingdom. Manifest Your will here on earth, as it is manifest in heaven." Matthew 6:10 The Voice

**"We're ALL in this TOGETHER."** Almighty God is intentional in building His kingdom on earth. Unseen by the naked eye of natural man, the Lord is at work behind the scenes facilitating spiritual outcomes. Earthly kings build their kingdoms, but ultimately it is the kingdom of heaven that reigns. So, to be on the right side of history (His Story), we align with what God is doing by prayer. We submit to His reign in our hearts, so His Kingdom comes within us before it manifests itself out to the world.

What are the purposes of our heavenly Father? How can our lives line up with what the Lord wants? We know our heavenly Father's major purpose is growing our love relationship with Him. He is our King who loves us, His citizens, so we can grow to love and accept His gracious governance of our lives. Our king Jesus died for us, so by His resurrection power, we die for Him. Yes, we pray for His love to rule our hearts and motivate our words and deeds.

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"Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?" (James 2:5)

The love of the Lord is an attractive advertisement to a lost and confused world. They see love and they wonder, 'Why?' Why do we take the time to listen to a person's story and enter into their life? Why do we give expertise and cash to help alleviate suffering and help create opportunities? Love is God's greatest command, so we model for others our joyful privilege to love and be loved by the Lord. Yes, the kingdom of God is built on the love of God. God's will is manifest on earth every time we love in Jesus' name. His kingdom of love defeats the kingdom of hate.

The more complete we become in Christ, the more the Kingdom of Heaven manifests itself in our lives. We usher in His dominion every time we pray for His will to be done down here, like it is up there. For example, oneness of heart with the Lord means we refrain from having to have the last word. Unity of soul with God means we are content to grow in our character above needing the praise of our peers. Alignment with the Almighty's agenda supports the advancement of His Kingdom and the retreat of our own. We either pray our kingdom come or His Kingdom come, amen!

"Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:12-14)

"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:** Ask yourself, how can I adjust my calendar and checkbook to better align with God's purposes?

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:</u> "Lord, thank You for the people You have divinely placed in my life who speak holy truth, love and words of wisdom. Give me a heart of discernment to know when You are using someone to speak instruction into my heart and my circumstances, and give me the strength and courage to follow through with that advice, even when it's hard. Fill me with peace in knowing that even if I take a wrong turn, Your purpose will prevail. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King