

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 – December 27, 2020

“While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.” Jeremiah 7:13 (NIV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” Encountering God’s peace requires an attentive and listening ear. To enter into the peace of the Lord is an active and engaging reality. We must intentionally look for signs of His coming Kingdom and listen to His still, small Voice.

Rarely in life are we truly passive, disengaged from the cares or concerns of the world and how they impact our daily lives. Even if we are physically still, our hearts and minds can easily be restless, consumed with fear of the future or bitter resentment towards those who have hurt or wronged us in the past. Though we culturally value multitasking, in many ways it is an illusion, for we cannot give ourselves fully to multiple tasks, people, or pursuits. As Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:24)

In Jeremiah 7, the Lord was explicit in how He wanted His people to focus their time and attention: execute justice, care for the stranger, orphan, and widow, do not murder. If they gave themselves fully to this way of life, the rewards were great, with the Lord saying,

“I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.” (Jeremiah 7:7). Instead, we see them freely giving themselves to the opposite way of life: lying, stealing, murdering, and worshipping false gods, and then having the audacity to come and stand before the Lord in his house of worship. (see Jeremiah 7:8-11)

Though this passage paints a bleak picture and reminds us of our capacity as humans to run headlong into sin and self-destruction, it is also filled with an undeniable hope. Why? Because even when we are at our absolute worst, the Lord still speaks to His people. Even when we are running away as fast as we can, He stands at the gate and longs for us to return, like a father looking for a prodigal child. He speaks words of peace over us, again and again. Will we quiet our hearts this year end and the dawn of a New Year soon to begin, and learn to hear and obey?

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

“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: What noise and distraction keeps you from looking for the Lord’s work in your life and hearing His Voice spoken to you? Ask Him to help you turn from those persons, places or things that deafen your ears to His Voice and teach you to hear and obey His Word.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear LORD, we are not of this world system but have a Heavenly inheritance, reserved for us in Heaven. So, I pray that I will no longer be conformed into the pattern of this world and squeezed into its mold, but day by day be increasingly transformed into the image and likeness of the LORD Jesus Christ. Help me to take every thought captive and to surrender my heart and life to You in true obedience and godly humility. May we who are Your children be drawn closer to each other and to You as You do a good work in each of our lives. Build us up into a spiritual house, where Christ is the cornerstone and may Your indwelling Holy Spirit, prompt and guide us, encourage and train us. LORD, I surrender all that I am to You today and pray that I may walk in newness of love and humble obedience all the days of my life. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King