

Pastor Mark Mikels - March 1, 2020

"TWENTY-TWENTY VISION"

"The Spirit of Desperation"

(1 Thessalonians 4:13; Hebrews 6:19; 1 John 3:3)

Intro ...

This morning, in this brief communion meditation, I draw your attention to the final "*Spirit of this Age*" that I will be addressing ...

The voice of '*My Earthly Companion*' has clearly told me that there is nothing more to be gained by further identifying the ways in which the '*god of this world*' would seek to '*Destroy the Works of the God of All.*'

Every '**Spirit**' that we have identified and challenged to this point is indeed merely the same one dressed slightly differently ... The '**Spirit**' that I would identify today is the end result of them all - It's a '**Spirit**' that we find present everywhere we look today ... It's a '**Spirit**' that captures the force of them all and is the final destination of them all ...

So, let's address it and '**Be Done**' with them all.

TODAY'S 'SPIRIT OF THE AGE' FOCUS:

THE SPIRIT OF DESPERATION ...

- The feeling that **DEATH** stares me in the face - that something vitally important is about to **DISAPPEAR**.

In one way or another, the **Spirit of Desperation** cries:
"**LIFE** as we **KNOW** it is about to **END**."

Might be due to **CLIMATE** Change;
Might be due to **POLITICAL** Change;
Might be due to **ECONOMIC** Change;
Might be due to **HEALTH** Change;
Might be due to some **PERSONAL** Change.

Here's what I wrote in my '*Journal*' just yesterday ...

"Tomorrow I will conclude our 'Spirits of the Age' examination with 'The Spirit

of Desperation.' This is the desperation that Satan (though his human lackeys) would put in the hearts of all human beings ... the desperation that destroys faith and hope ... the desperation that drives out peace and joy ... the desperation that takes our eyes off our "Unfailingly Faithful Father" and puts them on things most unfaithful and unprofitable ...

It's the desperation that every unexpected or imagined catastrophe can cause to arise."

Now let me share ...

TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...

The **ANTIDOTE** to Desperation, the vaccine against it, is '**HOPE**.'

If 'Desperation' is indeed a prevailing "Spirit of this Age" then '**HOPE**' is a prevailing "Spirit of the Age to Come."

I choose to "**Live in Hope**" and next Sunday we will begin an examination of 'The Most Hopeful, the Most Hope-Filled Book in the entire Bible.' May it serve to further 'Sharpen our Vision.'

But for this communion meditation, this dedication meditation today, allow me to share with you these:

THREE INCREDIBLE TRUTHS concerning a Believer's **HOPE** ...

First Incredible Truth ...

'HOPE' DISTINGUISHES US ...

*"We sorrow not as those who have no hope"
(1 Thessalonians 4:13)*

As long as we live in this fallen world, **sorrow** will be part of our lives. That's just the way it is ... **Loss** is part of the picture - but never for a believer does loss bring one to a point of **desperation**.

The **Hope** we have always raises our eyes beyond the loss and focuses them on the things we can never lose - The things provided us by our Eternal Three-Person God - and thus, we look at life differently ...

Our **Hope** distinguishes us!

Second Incredible Truth ...

'HOPE' STABILIZES US ...

*"Which hope we have as an anchor for our souls"
(Hebrews 6:19)*

Since our Hope is in things that are eternal and secure ... things that are unchanged by the ever-changing circumstances of life, we weather the storms of life like a ship that is securely anchored against the tide.

Our **Hope** stabilizes us!

Third Incredible Truth ...

'HOPE' ENERGIZES US ...

*"Everyone who has this hope in him purifies (cleanses) himself..."
(1 John 3:3)*

More than merely dealing with the issues of this life, the believer is thoroughly invested in '*preparing for the life to come*' ... the life with the ONE in whom his **Hope** is based ... **Doubt** and **desperation** and any kind of **defilement** is targeted and (by God's Grace) **eradicated**.

Our **Hope** energizes us!

And now as those who are '**Distinguished, Stabilized** and **Energized** by **HOPE**' take to heart today's **Final Thot** which conveys the testimony of a songwriter from years ago. Allow it to lead you right into '*Communion*' with the one of whom it speaks ...

Final Thot ...

*"My **HOPE** is in the **LORD** who gave himself for me
and paid the **PRICE** of all my sin at **CALVARY**."*