

## ~ ECHOES FROM THE UNDER SHEPHERD ~

### FAMILY EMPHASIS MONTH

#### *2019 Annual Men's Day and Annual Father's Day Observance*

*"I returned and saw under the sun that—the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all."*

Ecclesiastes 9:11 NKJV

On this Annual Men's Day and special Father's Day Observance, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who said, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6 (KJV) We are especially blessed and honored to have as our guest speaker a man of highest esteem, Dr. Keith Melvin, who will expound the provoking 2019 Men's Day Theme: "Enduring Longevity," taken from Ecclesiastes 9:11.

To the Men's Day Chairman, Deacon Ricardo Bell and Co-Chairman, Brother Dorsey Hubbard, as well as all of the men of Union, I commend you for your efforts in planning, by God's grace, this weekend of activities culminating with today's leadership and participation in Church Sunday School and the Morning Worship Celebration. "To God Be the Glory! Great Things He Hath Done!"

I thank God today for all of the exceptional men of Union; men who have learned how to lean and depend on Jesus in all situations. Men who are living epistles of the Word as found in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path." I thank God for your enduring longevity to the ministry of Jesus Christ; for being men of integrity who stand firm in the faith and who will not quit when the going gets tough. You know that your job is to keep growing, with God's help, to become mature men and fathers that God is calling you to be. Always remember that living God's way must always remain your priority. Trust Him and He will give you the victory!

Now as we observed today, Annual Men's Day, as well as, Annual Father's Day, I want to share these timely excerpts from **Dr. David Jeremiah's** book entitled, *"31 Days to Happiness:"*

**The world is a mystery and life but a vapor, Solomon tells us; but hard work, wise living, and joyful countenance are not.** They are the best chance for those who would make the most of earth on their way to heaven. Life is uncertain—embrace it with joy.

More than two hundred years ago, the Connecticut House of Representatives was in session on a bright, sunny springtime day. Suddenly, the sky grew dark and ominous shadows flooded across the chamber. The representatives grew alarmed as they looked out the windows in puzzlement. This was an age that lacked the science to foretell solar eclipses. No one could have expected or understood the sudden blanket of darkness.

A clamor arose among the representatives. Adjourn! Let us hurry from this House to get our own houses in order! was the consensus. Some legislators believed the Second Coming of Christ was surely at hand.

But the Speaker of the House, a devout believer himself, rose to speak. He gently acknowledged that the House was upset by the darkness and that some were afraid. "But the Day of the Lord is either approaching or it is not," he said. "If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. And if the Lord is returning, I, for one, choose to be found doing my duty. I therefore ask that candles be brought."

In these days of uncertainty, we can ask for no better course. **Even as the darkness falls, the light is certain to overcome it. So bring the candles.** Lift them aloft to spread their light for as long as the wax holds out, for as long as our strength holds out. The Lord could come today, or He could come in a thousand years. In either case, let us be about our Father's business.

**Let us seize the day, raise His flag, and set our thoughts on things eternal.**

**Tomorrow, Lord, is Thine Lodged in Thy sovereign Hand; And if its sun arise and shine, It shines by Thy command. The present moment flies, And bears our life away; O make Thy servants truly wise, That they may live today. Amen.**