

The Testament

September 2019

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

A timeless message from the archives...

The Needs Of The Many

- by Deacon Dean Jernigan

The passing of the actor Leonard Nimoy triggered a period of mourning for science-fiction fans like me. Playing the role of "Mr. Spock" in the Star Trek television and movie series, Nimoy became a fan favorite because of the mystique and intricacies surrounding his Spock character. Set in the 23rd century, Star Trek is based on a team of space explorers who travel from galaxy to galaxy throughout the universe on an extraordinary space ship called "The Enterprise".

Born on a planet outside of our galaxy and only half-human, Spock is devoid of emotion and his actions are guided by the principles of logic. Based on these principles, the core of Mr. Spock's belief is centered on the notion that - "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one". Driven by this view, Spock once sacrificed his life in order to save the many lives aboard the Enterprise.

While Star Trek is an awesome work of fiction, it's interesting to note that this same "needs of the many" approach often finds its way into the fabric of the real world. The majority rules in board rooms, committee meetings, PTA meetings and even church conferences based on the needs and desires of the many who constitute the majority. The needs of the few, or the one, are often pushed aside or not addressed at all.

Fortunately for those of us in the faith community, the needs of the one are always at the forefront of concern for our Heavenly Father. Whether it's the prodigal son, who sheepishly returns home to the loving arms of his father after squandering away his inheritance (Luke 15:11-32), or the woman with the issue of blood, who merely needs to touch the hem of Jesus' robe to be cleansed of her condition (Luke 8:43-48), God's Word places a premium on the value and needs of the one.

Consider the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 8:12-14. In this parable, Jesus provides an example where if a man has a hundred sheep, and if one of the sheep happens to wander away, the man will leave the ninety-nine sheep (the many) and go in search of the one. Even more, the man will rejoice more at finding the

one than at having the ninety-nine. The parable, along with the lessons learned from the prodigal son, serves as a fine example of God's Will that no one perishes and that the value and the needs of the one are just as important as the needs of the many. The message from God is resoundingly clear - "you" matter!

Your needs are important to God. Search the scriptures and you will find that God loves us so much that He promises to supply all of our needs (Philippians 4:19), to give us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4) and to serve as a constant source of protection, vowing to never leave or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). Praise God, thank Him often, and express your needs and wants to Him through prayer and supplication as directed by His Word. *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.* (Matthew 7:7-8)

As you go about your daily walk on faith's highway, take pride in knowing that you are the apple of God's eye. Fearfully and wonderfully made with your own combination of flaws and perfections, God broke the mold after creating you! No one else possesses the DNA that creates the uniqueness of you. While many of us may share the same skin tone, bone structure, hair texture and other attributes that contribute to the outer image that the world sees, our inner compositions vary from person to person. This creates an inner beauty in each of us that manifests itself in the manner in which we treat others, help others, worship God and how we satisfy our most basic need to love and to be loved.

Indeed, there are places in our society where the needs of the many will often outweigh the needs of the few, or the one. But those places will never exist within the realm of God's Will for you. With a heart full of love for His most prized creation, the needs of the one are always the most important of all needs to God. Isn't it great that each of us has the opportunity to be the one!



Congratulations!

Bro. Cecil & Sis.
Earleen Sharrock



High school & college sweethearts since 1970, Cecil and Earleen were joined together in holy matrimony on August 27, 1979. Their love continues to grow and they just celebrated their **40th Wedding Anniversary!** May God continue to bless this union!



August 27, 1979 - August 27, 2019

**The Will To Thrive
At Age 95!**



Here is a special birthday salute to **Sis. Grace McFadden** who will celebrate her **95th birthday** on September 12th! Happy Birthday indeed! We pray for God's continued blessings on her life! Happy Birthday!

Around Lincoln...



Congratulations to Sis. Shannon Daye on her graduation from the Nuclear Medicine Technology and Molecular Imaging Program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Proud mom Min. Antoinette Daye, along with additional close family members, were present to join in celebrating Shannon's success!



Sis. Ann Williams enjoys the moment at a surprise birthday party given in her honor by her children. Happy Birthday Ann!



Pausing from the fun and excitement of the Back to School Bash, JaVerion Foster and Ty'ron Pratt grab a bite to eat as they prepare for the new school year.



Deacon on Duty for the month of September:

**Deacon Ed Crawley
(919) 943-7039**

Minister's Corner

- by Rev. Patricia Lee

It Could Have Been Another Way

We often make the comment that something could have been another way. Here are a few examples of that statement:

- * If the Russians had not interfered we would have had another president.
- * If Epstein had not acted in sexual immoral activities he would not have been imprisoned and felt forced to commit suicide.
- * If the young lady's windows had not been so darkly tinted the culprits would have been able to see the kids in the car and not shot up the car and perhaps her 9 year old child would not have been killed.
- * Some adults may say if I had been a better parent my kids would have turned out better.



We can say these things but do we have proof to support them?

The fact is we really don't know exactly how anything will turn out. Only God knows. I could have second guessed myself after a horrifying experience with heat exhaustion. I knew to drink more water but I chose to use my water to cool the outside of my overheated body instead. WRONG! My actions caused a ride in the ambulance to the ER. My husband and family were frantic. I was out for awhile and not really understanding what was happening. However, when I was fully awake as the prodigal son came to himself I too came to myself.

I didn't spend time wondering what if. That offered no benefit for me. Instead, I focused on the fact that these events happened. God allowed them to happen. He knew they would happen and He knew He would be with me during the entire process even if the situation ended in death.

I and all Christians who have a relationship with God do not believe in luck or chance. We believe in a God of purpose and a God who gets the glory for all things. So for us Christians it can not be another way. It has to be God's way and He determines the way.

Our Pastor's sermon topic at a recent revival was "The Last Last Time". He reminded us that only God has the power to determine if it is our last *last* time. Only God decides if He will give us more time in this life and God knew He had given me more time so it could not have been another way but only His way! THANK YOU GOD!!! THE GLORY BELONGS TO YOU!

Remember my Christian friends we must have a personal relationship with a just and kind Saviour to receive his "blessed assurance". Trust that He is your only way.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28-31

Black History Spotlight



Whitney Young

Civil Rights Leader/National Urban League

Whitney Moore Young, Jr. was born July 31, 1921 in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky on the campus of Lincoln Institute where his father was President. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Kentucky State College for Negroes in 1941.

After World War II, Young attended the University of Minnesota where he earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. He then served as director of the National Urban League (NUL) branch in Omaha, Nebraska in the early 1950s. In 1954 at the age of 33 Young was named Dean of the School of Social Work at Atlanta University. Young became active in the Atlanta NAACP and in 1960 was elected president of the Georgia NAACP.

In 1961 Whitney Young was named President of the National Urban League. He took over an organization designed to help Black migrants from the South find jobs and provide assistance while they adjusted to their new northern industrial surroundings. Young, however, transformed the League into a major Civil Rights Organization. He called for a "Domestic Marshall Plan," a program to get rid of poverty and deprivation among African Americans similar to the Marshall Plan that had been launched to reconstruct Europe after World War II. Young also initiated the Urban League "Street Academy," an alternative education program to prepare high school dropouts for college. His programs for integration and racial justice were explained in two books he authored, *To Be Equal* (1964) and *Beyond Racism* (1969).

Under Young's leadership, the National Urban League received grants from government and private sources to work on projects such as job training, open housing and minority executive recruitment. He increased the budget of the NUL and created thousands of new jobs for African Americans. He also took part in a number of major civil rights demonstrations including the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. He also served on numerous presidential commissions.

Whitney Young was one of most influential Civil Rights Leaders during the 1960s. He received the Medal of Freedom in 1969 from President Richard Nixon. He died on March 11, 1971.

www.blackpast.org

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

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Joan Lofton • Marva Atkins • William Mayfield
Earleen Sharrock, Editor • Dean Jernigan, Chair

Health & Wellness Pay Attention To The Sugar!

- by Sis. Janice Campbell

The Health & Wellness Ministry reminds everyone to be mindful of the amount of sugar that you take in each day. Too much sugar is not good for us and can lead to health issues.

How much sugar are you drinking?

Soft drinks are loaded with sugar. Reduce or avoid these beverages to reduce your sugar intake.



Remember:

12 Teaspoons = ¼ cup of Sugar

24 Teaspoons = ½ cup of Sugar

4 grams of Sugar = 1 teaspoon of sugar



¼ cup



½ cup

The best beverage:

Water = 0 sugar and = 0 calories

Happy Birthday to our September Birthday Celebrities!

James Hicks • Ann Williams
Janice Campbell • Patricia Thompson
Jameca Cotton • Myra Davenport
Grace McFadden • Allene Owens
Lawrence Clark • John Hodge, Sr.
Gloria Prescott • James Ellis
Reginald Davis • Sarah Devane
Leona Johnson

Best Wishes For Many More!!

In The Heat Of The Night

- by Rev. Lawrence Clark

An American television drama series first aired March 1988. *In the Heat of the Night*, was based on the 1967 film. It starred Carroll O'Connor as police chief William Gillespie and Howard Rollins as police detective Virgil Tibbs. This series lasted for 8 seasons and in its 143 suspenseful episodes this show dealt with a variety of issues including racism, police brutality, hate crimes, alcoholism, anti-Semitism and suicide. So many of the social problems in the southern town of Sparta, Mississippi were difficulties that not only plagued nightly law enforcement officials but also confront many of us today.

Night time appears to be the right time for individuals to experience intriguingly challenging incidents. II Kings 19:35 tells how one angel came at night and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. That night, God showed His power to defend Israel. Likewise, Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, came to Jesus to ask about how to be saved and he received salvation in the heat of that night (John 3). At night, Jesus' disciples fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane when he stole away to pray. Before facing the cross, Jesus was arrested while agonizing for all mankind in prayer (Mark 14).

One of the most thrilling biblical mysteries happened at midnight in the

story of Paul and Silas, who were placed in a Roman prison for teaching about the freedom that is available through the gospel of Christ. Acts 16:16-40 gives the account of what happened. A young woman possessed an evil spirit which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying (fortune telling). When she upset the apostles, Paul cast out the evil spirit thus causing an uproar in the city. Paul and Silas were ordered to be severely beaten, bound, and banished to the most secure part of the jail. Notwithstanding weariness, hunger, stripes and blood; fellow prisoners heard praises to which they had not been accustomed. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, all the doors were opened, and everyone's bands were loosed" (Acts 16: 25-26). In the heat of this night the least expected series of events happened! Many more intriguing occurrences took place in this New Testament historical narrative.

Today, many Christians are confounded and conflicted by seemingly unsurmountable and difficult problems in the heat of the night. The season of suffering may

extend beyond a 24-hour span of time. Meanwhile floors are paced, tears are shed, and people pop pills incessantly as they seek to deal with the dilemmas in the heat of the night. Statistically, major depression disorders affect 17.3 million American adults, or about 7.1% of the U.S. population age 18 or older (dbsalliance.org). Others suffer from addictions and suicides as they seek to cope with the uncertainties and complexities of life.

What should we do? We need only to set our goal to personally make it through the heat of the night. The Bible offers us the best instructions to make it through dark times: "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not unto thine understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Paul and Silas followed this instruction and so can we. It has been said that the darkest part of the night is just before day. We would do well to hold on through the midnight, wait patiently until daybreak, and praise God for the victory.



Back To School Bash!

Ever mindful of the needs of our youth, Lincoln lends a hand each year to help equip our students as well as those in the community with school supplies for the ensuing school year. Thanks to combined energies of our Recreation Ministry and Male Chorus, backpacks loaded with supplies are distributed along with a delicious meal during the cookout portion of the event. Hats off to these ministries for an outstanding event!



Celebrating Our Pastor

Showing honor and gratitude for God's manservant, the Lincoln family showered love and appreciation on Rev. Atkins and First Lady Marva during our annual Pastor's Anniversary celebration. This year's event featured a Community Street Fair with a clothes give away, free hair cuts, a prayer tent, entertainment and a food truck. We are thankful for our Pastor's effort to lead us in doing our part to help grow God's Kingdom and we look forward to continuing these annual celebrations!



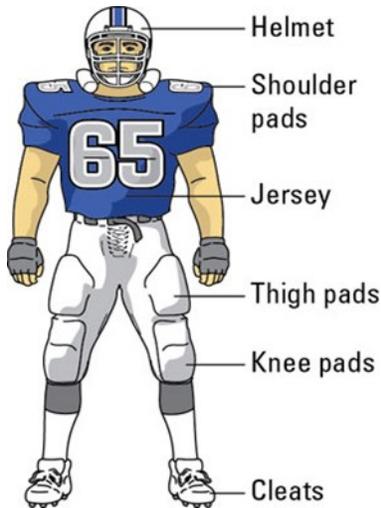
Male Chorus Anniversary

Ministering to God's people with a standard of excellence is the ongoing goal and desire of our Male Chorus. Their recently anniversary celebration was a continuation of that standard as well as a wonderful celebration of praise to our Heavenly Father. Joined by several additional male choirs, the anniversary celebration was an awesome worship experience! May God continue to pour out His blessings on our Male Chorus and their efforts to grow God's Kingdom by ministering through song.



KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



Armor of God

Football Object Lesson

Football season is a great reminder of the armor of God and the protection God gives us in the game of life. No football player, in their right mind, would run onto the field for a game without a uniform, including all the pads!

Main Point: In life, just like in a football game, we have been given pieces of armor/equipment that help to protect us.

Belt of Truth - Eph. 6:14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,*

Just like the football belt holds the pants up and gives security, so does this piece of the armor. The belt goes around the waist and secures the pads around that section. Truth brings assurance into our lives thereby also bringing security in who we belong to. I also think of it protecting us from always being led by our emotions. How many times do we refer to our midsection when we speak of our emotions - "I had a feeling in the pit of my stomach;" "I had butterflies in my stomach." We can't base decisions on our emotions, they can mislead. We must base them on the Truth of God's Word.

Breastplate of Righteousness - Ephesians 6:14 *"with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"*

Just as the shoulder pads cover the chest, this piece of God's armor protects our heart. Christ's righteousness, right relationship with God, is credited to us! Because of it our heart is protected from being led astray.

Shoes of Peace - Eph. 6:15 *"and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the*

gospel of peace."

Football cleats dig into the ground and give you traction - help you stand in position.

The gospel of peace - a peace with God, keeps us grounded. This peace keeps us calm and standing strong when storms come into our life. We are grounded because of the Good News that we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ!

Shield of Faith - Eph. 6:16 *"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."*

Just as arm pads protect from injury, shielding you from cuts, abrasions and bruises, this piece of the armor goes out before - in front. It is the first point of contact with the opposing force.

Faith is the first step in standing strong for God. Hebrews 11:6 says *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Trusting God is what moves us forward. Knowing and believing that He is real and active in our lives pushes the opposing team backwards!

Helmet of Salvation – Eph. 6:17 *"Take the helmet of salvation"*

Just as the football helmet protects the head from injury, a very important piece of the armor of God is the helmet of salvation to protect our mind. It is there that as an act of the will we first choose Jesus.

And it is there that we continue to consciously choose Him each and every day. Our minds are attacked with ideas from the world, ideas that do not draw us closer to God. The helmet helps to guard our minds; it is His saving grace that purifies our thoughts.

Sword of the Spirit - Eph. 6:17 *"and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

All other pieces of the armor of God are defensive.

The Sword of the Spirit or Word of God is offensive. Just like a football playbook, it gives us direction. It gives us instruction about how to play this game of life so that we can win!

Prayer - Eph. 6:18 *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

Just like the football jersey covers the football pads so that they will function properly, prayer covers all the other armor and brings them together as one unit that functions together.

A football jersey also identifies which team one is playing for. Think about your life. Are you on God's team?

Just like a football is to be thrown or carried down the field, so we are to carry the Gospel to share with others!

<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/armor-of-God.html>

Dear Heavenly Father,

Jesus, today I put on the HELMET OF SALVATION.

Please protect my mind from bad thoughts and help me to focus on things that are good. Please protect my eyes and keep them looking up to you.

I put on the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Guard my heart. Make everything that comes in or out of my heart good to you. Help my heart be open to you and easily led by the Holy Spirit.

I put on the BELT OF TRUTH.

Help me love the truth. Love to tell the truth and hear the truth. Lord, make me more like you. Let truth keep me from lies and mistakes.

I put on the GOSPEL SHOES of readiness.

Everywhere I go Lord, help me bring peace. Help me be peaceful. Guide what I do and where I go. Prepare me to tell other people about you.

I put on the SHIELD OF FAITH.

Build a strong faith in me. With faith, all things are possible. Protect me from any attacks from the enemy.

I pick up the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

Put your word in my heart. Lead me and guide me so I am good at all I do. Let your word change my character. Give me boldness and knowledge to love and defend others.

Amen

September 2019

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day Holiday 7:00pm Music Ministry	3 6:30pm Pastor's Aide 6:30pm Sounds of Joy 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	4 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	5 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	6 7:00pm CBE Movie Night 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	7 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.
8 Sounds of Joy Anniversary 8:00am Deacons 3:00pm Youth Missionaries	9	10 6:30pm Pastor's Aide 6:30pm Voices of Praise 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	11 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	12 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Voices of Praise	13 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	14 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess
15	16 6:00pm Health & Wellness	17 6:30pm Male Chorus 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	18 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	19 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 7:00pm Church Conference	20 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	21 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Laymen's League 1:00pm Women's Day Rainbow Tea
22 Ushers Mtg After Service 3:00pm Rev. Atkins@ Haw River Anniversary Service	23	24 6:30pm Mass Choir 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	25 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	26 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Mass Choir	27 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	28 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
29 9:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Pastor's Aide Anniversary	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Janice Campbell by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p> </div>				