Pastor's Weekly Devotional- April 16, 2015

"Don't Curse The Darkness"

Let's be honest with ourselves. When we are young, strong and resilient we feel invincible and can conquer the world. At least, we think so. We are at "sunlight places" in our lives. Then, the scene changes. We begin to experience treacherous terrain. Bad weather. Falling at times with major bruises (like unexpected sickness, unexpected troubles and fears). Sometimes the challenges are beyond our control. Massive miseries. The journey into darkness begins at "sunlight places."

Tired and worn, we wonder: "Where is God? Why doesn't He answer my prayer?" But God is there with you. He has not left you. God is not so much concerned about your comfort as He is with your destiny. You were born for a purpose. You are not here existing in an existential vacuum. The pilgrimage of life is a transformative journey full of darkness but it will eventually lead you to your destiny.

God's purpose for permitting the darkness (what seem to be liabilities) is for you to take an unblinking look at yourself and recognize that you need Him in your life. God wants you to invest in Hope. And Hope is not abstract. It is a Person—the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, here's what you do when the sunlight of life is behind you and you are cowering with fear and anxieties:

"Call upon God in the day of trouble."

"God is a Refugee and a very Present Help in the day of trouble."

The goal you are seeking in life is not so much to be achieved though as humans we often feel that way; rather, it is a <u>gift</u> to be <u>received from God</u>. The pathway of this gift is made up of frailty and strength, darkness and light. Meanwhile, where is God? He is RIGHT THERE WITH YOU!!

Have a blessed week. See you in church Sunday. Pastor Sewdin