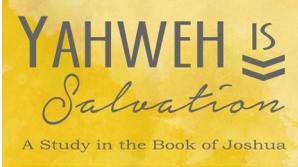


Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be continuing in the Book of Joshua. Our passage for today is Joshua 8:1-2.

Sermon Notes

Welcome to the Celebration!



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015

Vol. 8, Issue 51

Pastoral Ponderings

"Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you" (Psalm 16:1-2 ESV).

During the moments in life when everything seems to be going great we often forget that the next trial could be but a breath away. This is how I felt recently when I, metaphorically, inhaled in the land of blessing and, metaphorically, exhaled to find myself in the land of trial. Lately, God has been testing my faith as He guides me through different difficult circumstances and, sadly, I had forgotten what to do in such a situation.

As I have wrestled, trying to cast all my cares and worries unto the Lord, I have been drawn again and again to Psalm 16. I've read it many times and I have asked Kimmi to read it over me. David begins the Psalm at the exact right place for encouragement during challenging times. He pleads, "Preserve me God!" He declares, "God you are my refuge." This concept has clouded my mind, in a great way, and consumed my thoughts as of late. God *is* my refuge.

When I think of God being a place of refuge my inner child comes out. I picture an ensuing army, thousands of men strong, with dark banners raised high in the air marching against a mighty fortress in the misty morning. I imagine myself standing on the battlements of a domineering castle staring down at the army knowing that there is nothing they can do to take the citadel. The enemy has never conquered this stronghold, and today is no different. This army will fail, their ladders are too short, their numbers are too few, their weapons are too frail, and their leader is too weak to overthrow the fortress of the Lord.

The enemies will try, nonetheless. They'll launch their arrows darkening the sky. They'll scream and shout nasty battle cries. They'll seek to swim across the sloshing moat. They'll ram the gate with thundering force. They will fail. The enemy will fall. The keep is unassailable. When the dust settles the walls of the Lord will stand secure, the gate will hold firm, and the enemy will have been defeated. God will preserve me.

As I have walked through these recent trials in life, I've asked myself, "How do I enter into the fortress of the Lord? How do I find refuge in Him?" In searching for this answer I am reminded of Psalm 16:2. David says, "God is my refuge," and then proceeds with,
Continued --->

Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-time Visitor
 Returning Visitor

Name

Date

Email

Phone#

How to access the sermon archives:

To download sermons for **free**, go to newlifechristiancommunity.com

For a CD or DVD (\$2 charge), please fill out the form below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Your order will be available for pick up at the video booth the following week.

Name

Sermon Date

Scripture Passage

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall.
- Share this only with the pastors and elders.

Optional:

Name

Email

Phone#

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front immediately following the service.

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"Apart from Him I have no good at all." This helps me realize how to practically enter into the refuge that God offers. If I'm to be preserved through difficulties, then I must look away from myself. I must look to God. I must remind myself that, truly, God is good. I must remind myself that apart from Him I am dust to dust.

Several days ago I sat on my front porch next to my wife, Kimmi, staring at my feet. She knew of the struggles I faced and was right beside me for better or worse. In that moment she said, "Sometimes, when I am struggling, I find it helpful to look further out into the distance, and not right at my feet." Thank you, Kimmi. The opening verses of Psalm 16 rushed into my mind. Yes, God is my refuge, and to enter into His always and forever standing fortress I must look away from myself and into His eyes. I must look up from my feet and my failings and my worries. I must look into the physical manifestation of God's own goodness and love. I must stare at the Savior Jesus Christ and know that in Him I have found victory over every enemy. I'll stand on the battlements with Jesus and know that the enemy will fail no matter how seemingly strong or frightening. Yes, God will preserve me in life and through death to everlasting life with Him.

Be encouraged, New Life. Christ has won.
Pastor Chandler

upcoming [events]

- Sept. 30 *IMMERSE*,
6:30 pm @ the building
- Sept. 30 GriefShare,
12:30-2pm @ (green room, the building)
- Oct. 1 *Men's Bible Study, Book of Acts*,
6:30 a.m. @ the building
- Oct. 1 Women's Bible Study, Book of Hebrews,
9:30 am @ the building
- Oct. 4 Potluck Sunday, bring a dish to share for
a meal after service

September Memory Verse

Galatians 6:14

"But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

IMMERSE

The kids are hungry at Immerse!

We need snacks! :)

Please remember that parents need to walk their children to their classrooms and sign them in at the beginning and out at the end.



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com or call her cell at 651-373-1426.



Oct. 4th, all church Potluck will be served from our new kitchen! Meat & buns will be provided by the Elders. Please bring a dish to pass.

** Due to higher serving lane, your children may need assistance especially at pot lucks. For safety reasons, we ask that parents of young children please come through as a family.

Basic Food Safety Training and Kitchen touring will be scheduled in early October. We are asking that anyone who is on a meal team or working with food PLEASE try to attend. It is very informational.



Mark your calendars now! The Annual Train Ride will be October 24th! It was such a beautiful day last year to be on the train. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a scenic ride and lunch (free will donation)

Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.com

Find Links to:
• Events • Sermons Online
• Set Lists • The Table • & More

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