



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, July 8, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering

You Lack No Good Thing

We live in a very consumer-minded culture that is always looking for the next best thing that will make us happy. This mindset even creeps into the minds of believers. We think that because we don't have something we want, then we must be lacking something. This causes us to grumble and complain and become discontent. We begin to get fixated on this thing or that thing and we lose our focus on Christ. We forget about the greatest gift of Christ and begin searching hard after a lesser gift. I have always been struck by [Psalm 34: 8-10](#) "*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*" Here are some observations from this text: An attribute of God is that He **IS** good. Those who seek Him lack **NO** good thing. Those who fear Him have **NO** lack. Those who take refuge in Him **ARE** blessed. If you don't seek and fear the Lord, you **WILL** suffer want and hunger no matter how strong you are.

Many times, we get caught up in praying for something good and if we don't see an answer right way, we begin to doubt God's goodness. Do you struggle to believe the goodness of God? Are you tempted to believe the lie that God is withholding something good from you? I want to submit to you that the Lord is good in the timing of His gifts, that He is good in the gifts themselves, and that He is good in the way he gives gifts. Some common things we pray to receive are good health, a good work environment, a spouse, children, or certain talents. These things are good, and though you may desire these things, whether you ever receive them or not, you still **presently** lack no good thing because you have Christ. God has in mind our sanctification and in each moment, we don't often see how He is working. Verse 19 of Psalm 34 says, "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*" Many good things come through suffering and afflictions. (ex. Hard job, defiant children, financial stress, etc.) It is in these very afflictions that we receive perseverance, endurance, faith, hope, and trust in our Savior.

Your joy and satisfaction from any good thing does not increase by having more

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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things, because your joy is first and foremost in knowing the Giver who Himself is the fullness of your joy. You see, it doesn't matter how much or how little you have, as a believer knowing Jesus is our fullness of joy. In fact, if we seek to gain anything, we ought to seek to know Jesus more! We seek to know the Lord more through studying His Word, praying on all occasions, and by experiencing His love and power as we walk in obedience to Him daily. Whether or not you have received the things you desire, you presently lack no good thing if you have Christ. *"By His divine power, God has granted you everything you need for life and godliness in Christ."* (2 Peter 1). When we look to Jesus as our salvation, we have everything.

- You desire a house and don't have one. In Christ you lack no good thing.
- You desire a spouse but you're single. In Christ you lack no good thing.
- You desire a better job and don't have one. In Christ you lack no good thing.
- You desire to have children but don't have any. In Christ you lack no good thing.
- You desire a healthy and able body but don't have one. In Christ you lack no good thing.

I am repeating myself intentionally because it is all too common for us all to doubt God's goodness. If Christ is our greatest Gift and in Him we lack nothing, then we have something to encourage any person with in any circumstance, at any time. We tend to measure lack with worldly scales, but for those in Christ you lack nothing! And no matter your situation right now, you lack nothing as you **seek Him**, take **refuge in Him**, and **fear Him**. Even if you had the whole world yet did not know Christ you would lack everything.

This doesn't mean we cannot pray and ask for good things, nor is it wrong to have many good things, but remember that God has already given the greatest gift in Christ, and all other good things come in His perfect timing and perfect way for our growth and sanctification. Let us encourage each other often with this truth. Our God is good and in Him we lack no good thing.

Blessings, Pastor Paul

July Memory Verse

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (ESV)

welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, please stop by the Resource Center this morning to pick up a **welcome gift** we have for you which includes more information about who we are, what we believe, and what Jesus is doing here at New Life!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

MINISTRY NEWS

After service today, during the meal, the New Life team that went to Haiti will be sharing their trip experience and all that God had done and *is* doing there. Thank you to all who supported this team. Please come and see how prayers were answered.

Next Sunday **July 15th**, Scott and Deb Sundblad and their children will be here visiting. They are dear saints and one of the missionary families New Life supports through Pioneers. Be sure to warmly greet them and visit with them after service.

MINISTRY OPENINGS

If you're looking for a way to be serving in the body at New Life, there is a need for someone to oversee the **coffee ministry** and another for the **meal train ministry**. Also, there are still needs for extra camera operators in the **video ministry**. If you are interested in serving in any of these ways contact pastor Paul.

ROMEO

Looking for an opportunity for fellowship around the breakfast table? Join the **ROMEO** crew (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for breakfast at R-place café in Saint Croix on **Saturday July 14th, at 7:45am**.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Don't miss our **last** Picnic in the Park of the summer coming up on **Sunday July 15** after the service. We will be gathering (weather permitting) in the park at **115 W Main St.** in Dresser. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet someone new.

5-DAY CLUB

Don't forget! Next week is the 5-day club sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, **July 16-20th, 6:30-8:00pm**. If you still have your invite flyer, consider who you can encourage to come. If you're volunteering, please arrive around 6:15pm to help with set-up.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* •
New Life Connect • *Set Lists* • &
More

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Jul 8	Forge (high school youth) 6-8 pm at Milner's
Jul 11	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Jul 12	GriefShare Evening Meeting 6:30 pm NLCC Lg Clsrm
Jul 12	Ezekiel Bible Study (Men and Women) 7:00-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Jul 15	PICNIC IN THE PARK
Jul 22	Meal Team #7
Jul 29	Meal Team #1

Please join us today for fellowship
and a meal right here following our
service!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Chandler's message is from the New Testament book,
Philippians 3:17-21

Sermon Notes: