



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

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Pastoral Ponderings - **Worshipful Wonderings**

I have been brought to a place of wonder about worship over the last couple of months. As I have been given the chance to welcome folks to our corporate worship and begin a time of focusing our worship together on God, I have had the opportunity to ask what is worship and why do we have a time set apart to worship together? What is worship?

My personal definition of worship is, "Worship is a response of the heart in thankfulness to God". God knows we are tempted to worship others (and things) besides Him and commands us not to do this, accompanied by warnings of what might happen if we do. (Deut 8:19, Ex 34:14, Deut 30:17, 2 Chr 7:19 etc) We would be well advised then to know what it looks like to worship and to give that worship to God alone, for our God is a jealous God and would not have His glory be given to another. (Isa 48:11) So true worship then would come from a thankful heart and be purely directed to the true giver of all good things. (Jam 1:17) False worship then would be to give thanks to anything other than God, or dare I say it, to not give thanks when thanks is due? Are there good things in our lives? Who are they from? We should be thankful and worship. That's easy. But are there trials? Where do they come from? The One who makes ALL THINGS work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Rom 8:28) We should be thankful and worship. Therefore, we should worship at all times for all things. And this is true, but if we take it too far we are probably at risk of worshipping God for what He has done for us and although I believe we should be thankful in the small things I do not want to make Him out to be some sort of Genie that is there to design our lives and fulfill our wishes. A Creator of all things and commander of all honor must be so much more than this. To worship because we get seems quite off. I can't see us falling down in reverence and awe because our favorite team won the championship, or we got the job we always wanted. I can see us looking at the sum total of all of our lives and of those around us, and the beauty that surrounds us, and the wonder of childbirth or a thousand other things all moving and being held together by Him, and falling down in Reverence and Awe. So yes, it is at all times and everywhere but let us be careful of how we direct our worship.

As to the where? The idea of "all times" seems to preclude the idea that worship is restricted to a place. Yes the Jews were given special places and structures but those were but a shadow of what was unseen and what was to come. (Heb 9) Once we can see the true Glory and the Mystery is revealed, we no longer need to worship on this spot or that spot but the "true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth". (John 4:20-24)

Continued --->

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Ponderings cont.

So what is that proper spirit? Here are some thoughts.

- Worship is something worth dying for (See Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego-Dan 3:6)
- Worship must come from the heart not the lips alone. (Matt 15:8-9)
- Worship must be in a spirit of Humility. (Psalm 95:6)
- Worship is because of who He is not what He does (see above) *"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."* (Matt 2:2)
- Worship is a "place" to hear the word and turn from our evil ways. (Jer 26:2-3)
- Worship is always, "From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath" (Isa 66:23)
- Worship is non optional and no one (believer or unbeliever) is exempt. (Psa 86:9)
- Worship is connected to giving to God. (Deut 26:10)
- Worship of a Holy God requires preparation and separation. (1 Chr 16:29)
- Worship involves personal sacrifice. *"Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.""* (Gen 22:5)

Now that is going back to the very beginning. Or is it? My life verse and maybe an explanation of why I am so hung up on getting this right, and sharing with you, is Romans 12:1-2.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. (Php 3:3)

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Heb 12:28-29)

Blessings, Rene

Help Wanted!

Coffee Ministry

We are in great need of a few wonderful people to help us with the coffee ministry. It is not difficult and it is a lot of fun. So, if you have ever thought that it is something you would enjoy...now is the time. We will train you and you would be serving in a very special way. You will be providing one of the first touches that folks get when they enter New Life. It is an honor to be doing the Lord's work and serving others. Please contact Diane McMahon at church or call 715-453-8123. Thank you!!

Immerse

We still need several teacher's assistants for Immerse. A teacher's assistant helps a teacher manage the classroom and helps guide children through the lessons. If you are interested, contact Pastor Chandler.

Church family, we are looking for a few people who love to care for infants and toddlers and can set aside upcoming Wednesday evenings to do so. While the children and adults are having Bible study during Immerse, the infants and toddlers play in the nursery/family center. Is there anyone out there who would lovingly mind the "youngins" during that time? For the safety of the children, all volunteers will undergo a background check.

Work Day

Plan to help New Life on a Fall work day. Saturday, Sept 16th starting at noon with pizza for lunch.

Upcoming Events

Women's Bible Study

Thursday morning Women's Bible Study begins on September 14th at 9:30 am. This year's study is the book of Romans! The only cost is a \$5 fee for materials. Childcare is available. If you have any questions, talk with Cory Mattson (715-417-0945). Check out the information & sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the entryway.

August Memory Verse

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
Matthew 28:19

Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

- Events • Sermons Online
- Set Lists • The Table • & More

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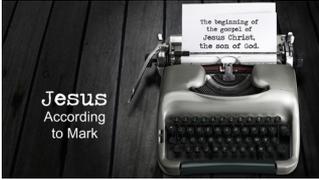
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meal [teams]

- Aug 27th Meal Team 3
- Sep 3rd Potluck Team #1
- Sep. 10th Meal Team 4

Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be teaching from the
Book of Mark.
Our passage for today is 13:14-23.

Sermon Notes

New Life now has an Instagram account! Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Sign up in the entry way to be added to New Life Connect

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~Sunday service starts at 9:30 am
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