



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." 2Cor 5:17

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Vol. 11, Issue 11

TIS THE SEASON ...

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season..." ~2 Timothy 4:1-2

Without question, when you, the reader, began reading this pondering, I am sure that the title initiated thoughts of the Christmas season. Perhaps you even paused and started thinking about Christ's birth, or you began thinking about fun family traditions, Christmas trees, carols, or various stages of gift giving...receiving...returning...you name it. While the significance of this particular Christmas season cannot be ignored, it is not the focus of this pondering. Rather, the goal is to carefully consider Paul's instruction in the beginning of the fourth chapter of this letter. Ponder Paul's charge to preach the Word, and consider how this is reflected in your walk with Christ.

Nearly ten years ago, I was invited to attend a pastor's conference with several men from the church my family attended in Eau Claire before moving up to the north woods. I had served alongside the men at Cedarcreek for a significant amount of time, and many of them played a major role in my life as a young man and believer in college. While I had been following Christ for nearly 8 years at that point, there was one particular teaching at the conference that struck me more so than anything else throughout the week. During one of the breakout sessions, I chose to attend a session titled *"Are You Really Reading the Word?"*. The title struck me as interesting, and the Lord was convicting me to evaluate my quiet times and my studying of the Word, so I went. The presenter of the session was a 72-year-old man who had been a pastor for more than 45 years, and a believer for nearly 52 years! I am truly grateful for the Lord's guidance and the way that He intervened in my life that day. Herschel, the presenter provided practical actions steps to study the Word, and he delivered his instruction with devastatingly humble precision. At a critical moment during the session, Herschel stated, "Not only do we study the Word to learn and grow as followers of Christ in our relationship with Him, but we study and read so that His words are on our tongue

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TIS THE SEASON ...

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and not our own." He further expressed that while we may have the ability to speak beautifully and with conviction, there is nothing we can say that carries more truth or power than those from the Bible. Paul's letter examines why that is crucial to understand.

"...reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." ~2 Timothy 4:2-5

If we are to heed the Lord's instruction through Paul's letter, how much more, then, is it critical for us to be in the word, studying, growing, and ultimately working to ensure that His words are on our tongue and not our own.

Brothers and sisters, tis **always** the season to preach the word. And so, let us be encouraging one another to be studying scriptures, individually and otherwise, so that we are ready with the truth of the Gospel at all times and in all seasons.

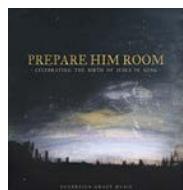
Your brother in Christ, Zack Fugate

December Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:3-5

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'" (ESV)

Resource Center Highlight



Prepare Him Room by Sovereign Grace Music is a delightful collection of Christmas songs, nine of which we sing during our Sunday services. For the month of December, we are offering this CD in the Resource Center! Stop by and purchase your copy this morning!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SHOE COLLECTION

You may have noticed the cardboard box in the entry way - Emily Snider is raising money for a school trip by collecting gently used shoes. Would you consider donating towards this cause? It would be a great help to Valley Christian School and the students who attend there. We will be collecting through the month of December.



Tonight, is our second *The Coming King* Sunday evening service. Come (even if you missed the first) to the New Life building at 6:30 pm with an eye on Jesus ready to consider how Jesus fulfills the long-awaited expectations of Israel. With the services, make sure to participate with the devotional eBook "The Coming King" available through our website, newlifechristiancommunity.org/thecommingking. Download it today.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

This is an open invite for an old-fashioned Christmas at the Milner family's residence, 878 179th St. Dresser, WI 54009 on **Friday, Dec 22nd** starting at 3pm. Come join in the fellowship, food, and fun!

NEW LIFE PARTNERS, SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, January 14th at 1:00 pm will be our annual business meeting. We can't wait to celebrate all that God has done in 2017 and look forward with you to all that He will do in 2018. Until then, continue to pray with us for God's will to be done among us.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

- [Events](#) • [Sermons Online](#) • [New Life Connect](#) • [Set Lists](#) • & More

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

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Dec 17 **The Coming King** (devotional service)
6:30 pm at NLCC

Dec 17 **Forge Ministry** (9th-12th Grade)
6:30 - 8:00 pm at NLCC

Dec 20 **Immerse** (all ages)
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC

Dec 21 **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 am at NLCC

Dec 21 **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 am at NLCC

Dec 21 **GriefShare Evening Meeting**
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Dec 24 **NO MEAL SERVICE**

Dec 31 Meal Team #2

Jan 7 Potluck Team #1

**Join us for Fellowship and a
Meal after our service today!**



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Mark 15:33-39

Sermon Notes:

