



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, April 15, 2018

Vol. 11, Issue 28

Pastoral Pondering

TAKING OUR THOUGHTS CAPTIVE

As a young man in my early 20's, I remember reading the following verse about taking your thoughts captive, and my thinking was how in the world can I do this? The Apostle Paul tells us in *2 Corinthians 10:5*; "*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ*".

Shortly after that, I was reading the book of Proverbs and the Lord took me to Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, **guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life**". Knowing that the heart includes the mind and all that proceeds from it.

A few years later the Lord showed me *Philippians 4:8*, "*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.*"

Clearly, the Lord was showing me that what I think about is very important to Him as we live out our faith day by day. All true Christians have a deep inner desire to bring honor and glory to our Savior, and this must include our thoughts.

During this time two quotes became meaningful and powerful to me with real life application;

"Whatever dominates your thinking will dominate your behavior" and

"A thought reaps an act, and act reaps a habit, a habit reaps a character, and a character reaps a destiny"

I heard it said that every sin we commit, we commit twice, once in our thoughts and again when we act upon the thought. There is a difference between being tempted, (a thought entering into the mind) and sinning (dwelling upon an evil thought and wallowing in it.) One thing I'm aware of is that the sins of our thought life go unconfessed more than any other kind, and a regular confession

continued ...

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132
lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry

Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
fugate.sara@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Pete Manship (Treasurer):
715.755.3330
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

GriefShare Ministry

Connie B: 715.557.1431
conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry

Diane McMahon:
715.453.8123
dedewiz@gmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner:
715.557.0661
lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services

Barb Manship: 612.804.9793
or 715.755.3330
barb@pbmpkmanship.com

Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

PASTORAL PONDERING

continued from first page

of these thoughts is both healthy and brings healing.

So, you may be wondering, what have I learned over the past 40 years about taking my thoughts captive and making them obedient to our Lord? Here's a few areas that have been very helpful to me over the years and hopefully to you.

- 1) I have come to learn that being in God's Word every day is a key success factor for me. Memorizing key verses has helped me greatly, every time a sinful thought enters, (pride, selfishness, anger, jealousy, arrogance, unforgiveness, greed, lust, impurity, lying, the list goes on and on), I will actually quote a supporting verse in prayer, many times out loud. I know I cannot win this struggle in my own flesh, I'll fail every time! I must have Christ, who lives in me fight the battle. Pastor Tony has been teaching this point to us in the book of Judges, only God can give us the victory! I love [Philippians 2:12](#), "*for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*" Each and every one of us struggles with what one pastor calls our "pet sins", and we must deal with them with God's help. Jesus demonstrated this in [Matthew 4](#), where every time Satan tempted Him, he quoted scriptures and Satan left Him frustrated. We can have this same victory!
- 2) We must not feed our minds with anything that will support sinful thoughts and habits. That's why [Proverbs 4:23](#) tells us to "*guard our hearts.*" Be careful of your friendships, what you watch and read, they can take you down the wrong path. Some friendships may even need to end.
- 3) Live and walk by the Spirit hour by hour. I have learned that temptation will come when you least expect it. Be on guard! Please study [Galatians 5:16, 24](#), and [Romans 8:13-14](#). By praying these verses, I have actually had sinful thoughts immediately leave me.
- 4) We must replace sinful thoughts with godly thoughts and actions immediately. This takes a lot of work and energy at first, but it's a critical step. I've heard this called the "**principle of replacement**" by some Pastors. [Ephesians 4](#) tells us about taking off the old nature and putting on the new nature. Example could be if you are angry with someone for whatever reason, you should pray for them and do something very kind to them as soon as you can.
- 5) Being in fellowship with other Christians has been greatly beneficial to me. I attend two Bible studies every week, and this fellowship helps me with accountability, support, and deep abiding friendships.

In closing, I've come to understand that we are in a very real spiritual war, and the Word of God and prayer are effective weapons in this battle against Satan for our souls. I love the old hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers,"

Onward Christian Soldier,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Christ the royal Master,
 Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle,
 See His banner go!

May we rest in Christ alone, Jim Nelson

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HELP FOR THE LINZMEIER'S

Moving is hard - let's try to lighten the load! We would like to gather gift cards to area businesses to have for Pastor Paul and his family when they move here on April 18th. If you're interested in being part of this please pick up a gift card to a place like Walmart, BP gas station, the Pizzeria (or your favorite local establishment) - any dollar amount - and bring it to church today, **Sunday, April 15th!** Please drop off gift cards with Chandler and Kimmi or Brady and Danielle Rupard. If you have any questions, please call Danielle at 701-367-8558.

There will be other opportunities as well to help the Linzmeier's as they move in and get situated! Keep your eyes open for more information on New Life Connect!

April Memory Verse

Psalm 24:1-4

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully." (ESV)

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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com
 Pastor Chandler Wiley 815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com
 Cory Mattson~Secretary: 715.417.0945
 Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
 Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
 Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
 Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
 Rene Milner 715.557.0185
 Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Apr 18 Immerse (all ages)
 6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC
 Apr 19 Men's Bible Study
 6:30 am at NLCC
 Apr 19 Women's Bible Study
 9:30 am at NLCC
 Apr 19 GriefShare Evening Meeting
 6:30 pm at NLCC Lg Clsrm

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Apr 22 Meal Team #7
 Apr 29 Meal Team #1
 Apr 15 Potluck Team #1

**A meal and fellowship follow our
 service today. Please stay and
 join us!**



Today's Passage:

Pastor Chandler's message is from the New Testament book,
[Philippians 3:17-21](#)

Sermon Notes:



Address: 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~ Email: info@newlifechristiancommunity.org
Sunday service starts at 9:30 am