



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 22, 2018

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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 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.

continued ...

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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- 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

WELCOME LINZMEIER'S!

We are excited to announce that this week Paul and his family arrived from Louisville and are excited to get involved in the ministry of Jesus Christ at New Life. Let's be praying for Paul and his family as they acclimate to a new culture and climate!

Welcome Linzmeiers! We are excited to know you and love you in Jesus' name! Thank you for following the Lord's leading in this process. We look forward to seeing the Lord use you and work through you as He makes Himself known to us, His bride.

MISSIONARY NEWS

After the service today, during lunch in the banquet area, Pastor Tony will be sharing pictures and stories from his trip to Chad. You'll want to be here for this time of fellowship. He's excited to share and answer questions about the work they did in Chad.

Our beloved Dave and Angie Ziel, missionaries we support who serve in Costa Rica, will be at New Life on the next two Sundays (**April 29 and May 6**). They will also be joining us on Wednesday May 2nd at Immerse. Over the next two weeks they will be sharing about what they have been doing to make much of Jesus in Costa Rica. You don't want to miss them! New Life family, let's make them feel loved and welcome.

VIDEO MINISTRY

This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee @ 651-470-4172. We'd love to have you on the team.

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:

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

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Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Apr 25 Immerse (all ages)
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC

Apr 26 Men's Bible Study
6:30 am at NLCC

Apr 26 Women's Bible Study
9:30 am at NLCC

Apr 26 GriefShare Evening Meeting
6:30 pm at NLCC Lg Clsrm

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Apr 29 Meal Team #1

May 6 Potluck Team #1

May 13 Meal Team #2

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

JUDGES

Our Desperate Need for the King

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
[Judges 5:1-31](#)

Sermon Notes:



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