



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 15, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering

Let It Rain!

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the Earth!" Psalm 46:10

I have been truly blessed to have a father that I respect and love deeply. He is probably one of the smartest men I have known and has given me great advice over the years. He has always been there through my failures and successes. I have turned to him often for counsel in times of trial. He would often say, "You know what I do when it rains? I let it."

This seems like a rather obvious statement since we have no control over the weather or our trials that we often find ourselves in. However, as I have reflected on this, it is bigger than it appears. My father is a self-proclaimed agnostic who was raised in the church and went to Moody Bible College after high school. He excelled in sports playing college football against Forrest Gregg (for you Packer fans), he wrote a book on statistics titled "Difficult Concepts, Understandable Explanations" published in 1984 and has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine on the Effects of Human Growth Hormone in Men over 60 years of age.

I point this all out not to brag on my father's accomplishments but to point out the fact that as an agnostic statistician he understands that there is order in the world and that it's only explanation is in a Creator. He understands that everything around us could not happen by chance or randomness. It's statistically impossible. Despite his acceptance of a Creator he and I continue to debate the things of God. I believe his intelligence is a roadblock to his faith. You can't explain God in human terms and never will! There are things we will never understand on this side of heaven which I am willing to accept but he isn't. He continues to search for "Understandable Explanations" but only finds "Difficult concepts."

Like my dad, I am willing to relinquish all control in times of trials. I am willing to let it rain when it rains but there is a huge difference. One must ask, "why the rain?" I know that God brings the rain or trials which ultimately leads to His exaltation or His glory as noted in [Psalms 46:10](#). This alone answers the difficult questions often posed like "If there is a god, why do bad things happen to good people?" or "why God would allow Job to suffer?" The answer is for God to be

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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exalted! That's good enough for me but for my dad and the world, they are still left wondering why the rain or suffering?

New Life itself is about to go through a small cloud burst with Pastor Chandler's departure. We are going to miss him and the Wiley family deeply. Should we sound the alarm, be in a state of angst or worry? Who will take his place? Psalms tells us to *"Be still, and know that I am God."* We are told to take a breath, rest, and contemplate what God has done and is doing. We are to know that God is in control. New Life has been blessed by excellent pastors currently and in the past and will continue to be in the future as long as we remain focused on Jesus alone. Chandler has done a remarkable job, but God already has his replacement in line. Although we're sad to lose Chandler, the elder board looks to the future with faith-filled expectation to see what God has in plan for us as we begin the search process. We know in the end God will be exalted through it all.

I personally want to thank you Chandler and Kimmi for your faithfulness, hard work and commitment to New Life. You are true friends, and Cory and I have personally been blessed with your friendship. We wish you the best as you move on to the next season of your lives. It's going to be exciting to see how God uses you.

We love you and will be in prayer for you and for the person who'll be filling the void left behind by your departure.

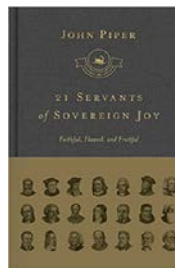
In Christ, Greg Mattson

July Memory Verse

Hebrews 13:8

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

Resource Center Book Highlight



Philippians 3:17-21 challenges us to consider the people we look up to, admire, and see as good examples. More than one time in his letters, Paul tells his audience to imitate those who display a life faithful to the gospel. In the book **"21 Servants of Sovereign Joy,"** author John Piper considers the lives of 21 heroes of the faith. These are men who, though flawed, proved to be faithful to the gospel. Not only did they preach the truth of Jesus Christ, their lives were totally transformed by the message of Jesus. All of their ministries bore great fruit. Some of the men Piper considers are - Augustine, John Owen, William Wilberforce, and John Paton. According to Paul, these men have something to teach us about living lives worthy of the gospel. **"21 Servants of Sovereign Joy"** is available for purchase in the Resource Center today!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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!

MINISTRY NEWS

This morning Scott and Deb Sundblad and their children are 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.

NEW ARRIVAL TO NEW LIFE

Let's celebrate and praise God with Dan and Danielle Panik on the arrival of their baby son, Levi Daniel.

CALL OUT FOR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

If you haven't yet, please consider joining us on **Sunday mornings @ 8:30-9:00am** in the large classroom for a time of prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come, as you are able. The goal is that the needs at New Life might be made more known and prayed for and that the saints might have another opportunity to gather on a consistent basis to pray. We serve a gracious God who hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Don't miss our last Picnic in the Park of the summer **Today** after 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! This week is the 5-day club sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, **July 16-20th from 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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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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:

Jul 15	Forge (high school youth) 6-8 pm at Milner's
Jul 18	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Jul 19	GriefShare Evening Meeting 6:30 pm NLCC Lg Clsrm
Jul 19	Ezekiel Bible Study (Men and Women) 7:00-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Jul 22	Meal Team #7
Jul 29	Meal Team #1
Aug 5	POTLUCK Team #2

Picnic Meal in Dresser Park

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

JUDGES

Our Desperate Need for the King

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Judges 9:7-21

Sermon Notes: